

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Church shares Christ's love in French Quarter

By Breena Kent Paine

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — A drunken man lay on a doorstep in New Orleans' French Quarter.

A slight chill in the air caused him to curl into a ball to keep warm. His clothes were filthy and full of holes, his beard was stubble, and his face and hands were scabbed and scarred. He was so undernourished that his bones formed sharp angles.

"Hey, do you feel all right?" asked Darren Watson, a student at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary who lives only a few yards from where the man lay. The man grunted in answer.

"Have you been this way long?" Watson asked him.

"Yeah," he said as he made an effort to raise his head.

"Aren't you tired of it?"

"Yeah, I'm sick of it." The man pushed himself into a sitting position.

"You know it doesn't have to be this way," Watson said. "There is another way," and he sat on the step, beside the man, to tell him how he could know Jesus.

Watson does not have any special background or training to minister to people in the French Quarter. As with the other seminary students who live at Vieux Carre Baptist Church and are involved in its ministry, he comes from a suburban church background. But his love for Christ and his caring heart step beyond his own experiences to relate to street people.

"I don't believe a doctor has to have his appendix out in order to operate on me," said Roy Humphrey, pastor of Vieux Carre Church and a graduate of New Orleans Seminary. "I don't believe a person has to be an alcoholic to understand an alcoholic. I don't believe that a woman would have to have been a prostitute in order to effectively help one. I do believe that we have to have a concern in our hearts."

From Poplarville, Miss., Humphrey lived on the streets of the Vieux Carre, or "old square," as a teenager. Years later, he accepted Christ through the witness of his wife, Virginia, and after receiving his master of religious education degree and being pastor of churches in Mississippi and Louisiana, he returned to New Orleans as pastor of Vieux Carre Church.

In the first 14 years of the church's history, it had seen 13 pastors, so Humphrey fought a discouraging battle to gain the Quarter people's confidence. After 15 years at Vieux Carre Church, however, he now has won that trust through his caring spirit and his knowledge of handiwork — fixing neighbors' cars, leaky roofs, dryers, and other broken items; his neighbors reported. Those who know him know they can count on his help in their times of need.

One man, Wally, had lived on New Orleans' skid row for 18 years. "The day I caught him, he was taking a coat off of a passed-out drunk. For seven months, we walked the streets

together," Humphrey said, noting he formed a binding friendship with the man.

Wally accepted Christ and now is

the caretaker at Vieux Carre Church and "the finest Christian I know," Humphrey said.

Humphrey believes in friendship

and lifestyle witnessing, as do the seminary students who work with him at Vieux Carre Church — Watson, of Shreveport, La.; Craig Mann, of Mon-

ed Humphrey, whose church is home to only 13 members. "I don't see any difference in the street than there was 15 years ago, except a few different faces."

Perhaps that is because most of the people to whom Vieux Carre Church ministers are in the French Quarter "for all the wrong reasons." When one accepts Christ, church members try to send him back home, away from the quarter atmosphere.

"There are numerous voodoo shops," Baxter said. "People (in the Quarter) have written (Vieux Carre Church) letters saying, 'Why are we there ruining their fun when we could be in the suburbs with the rest of the churches?'"

But Baxter has found an avenue for growth through the Quarter's children. He and his wife, Jonnie, hold Backyard Bible Clubs at the church. As a result, some of the children have accepted Christ, and Acteens and Girls-in-Action Missions groups have been formed to help them grow in their faith.

Most of these children come from single-parent or no-parent homes, with a sister or a grandmother caring for them, Baxter said. Three of the children who accepted Christ and joined the church come from "the sturdiest" of French Quarter family life: "sort of a common-law father."

With such unstable backgrounds, the children grow up without knowing the meaning of love. "We can offer them a love that's worth finding," Baxter said, "and not just a quick or superficial love."

Most Quarter people are "looking for something to ease their pain, peace for their heart," he continued. "We offer the only true peace to fill that void — Jesus."

Breena Kent Paine is on the staff of New Orleans Seminary. Tammy Wilkinson is the daughter of Keith Wilkinson, director of the Mississippi Baptist Sunday School Department. Her "home" church is Pinelake in Rankin County.



Craig Mann and Tammy Wilkinson invite a shoe-shiner to Vieux Carre Baptist Church, where they live. Behind them is Jackson Square and its trademark cathedral. A student in the

master of divinity degree program at New Orleans Seminary, Mann felt called to minister in the Quarter after visiting New Orleans with a mission trip from Samford University.

gomery, Ala.; Tammy Wilkinson, of Brandon, Miss.; and Leroy Baxter, of Tampa, Fla.

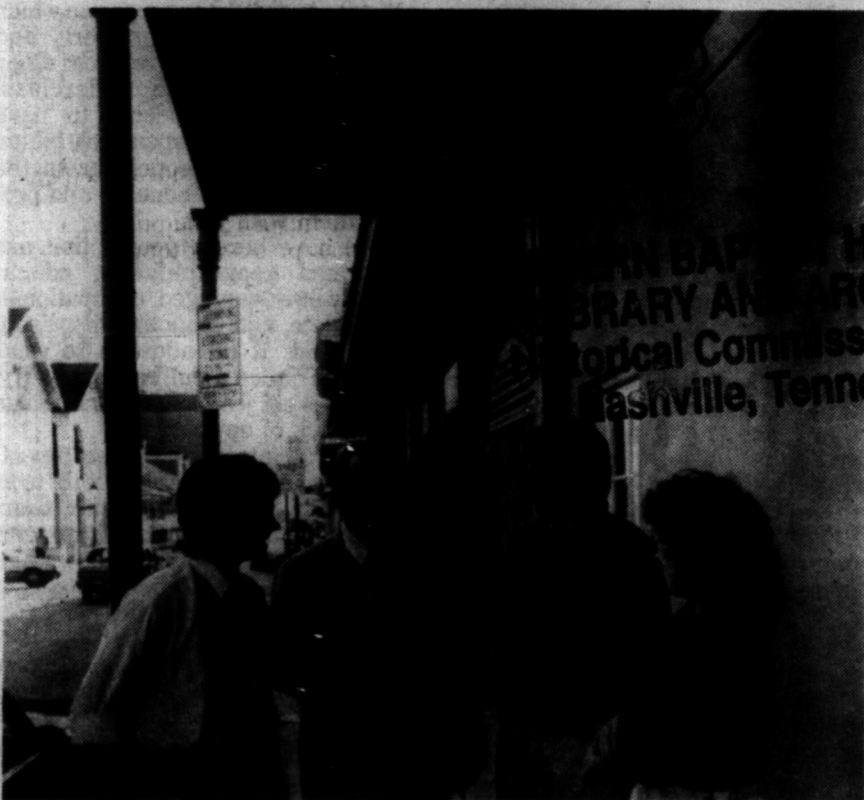
As a worker at a corner grocery store in the Quarter, Watson is able to meet residents daily "on their turf," allowing him to "establish relationships and proclaim the gospel to people." Daily encountering homosexuals, satanists, drug addicts, and alcoholics, the students have seen the frustrations of dealing with "truly unrepentant" hearts. For example, one alcoholic Watson helped "sober up and get back on his feet again" returned to the bottle only three months later.

"I'm learning that it's not all cut and dry. They still have a lot of problems," Watson said. "They don't just come out of it a polished Christian."

In addition, Mann said many street people feign accepting Christ hoping to get free meals from the people sharing the gospel with them, usually college students or members of church groups that "blitz the streets for a week."

Others, such as one woman Wilkinson befriended, have heard the gospel many times before, but are "turned off because they 'Bible bang.'" Wilkinson has spent time becoming her friend and continually showing her the love of God.

"We haven't won the Quarter," add-



By living at Vieux Carre Baptist Church on Dauphine St., Darren Watson (left), Craig Mann (second from right), and Tammy Wilkinson (right) minister to people in the French Quarter by forming friendships with them and spending time with them on a consistent basis. The New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary students are pictured with Roy Humphrey, an NOBTS graduate who lived on the Quarter streets as a teenager, became a Christian, and now is Vieux Carre Church's pastor.

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Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

A labeled convention

The two candidates have been announced for the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention. There will be only two serious candidates. When the "conservative" group began to win because it picked a candidate and supported him as a body, the "moderates" began to realize the only hope for that group would be to do the same thing.

So we will have two candidates.

In a very true sense, that is a sad condition. It doesn't take a very long memory to remember when one went to a convention without knowing who would be nominated. There were no power groups. Nominations were decided by groups of a few people or by one person. One year there were 14. Two run-offs were needed to decide who would be the president.

With 14 nominations, any one of those nominated could win. This year the winner will be decided between two men. They are the candidates of the two political "parties." One is a "conservative." The other is a "moderate."

Theologically it is probable that there is very little difference. Both are conservative. The election, however, will not be decided on theology. It will be decided by which of the "parties" is able to get the most supporters present for the vote.

Why do we have to have "parties"? Thankfully, such is not the case in Mississippi. In our last presidential election there were no party labels mentioned. It seems that Mississippi pastors and lay people who are invol-

ed in the denominational effort want to keep the fellowship close and the labels out. That is very good indeed.

Following the election, a nationwide publication SBC Today, announced that in Mississippi the "moderate" candidate had won and the "fundamentalist" candidate had come in fourth. The Baptist Record spoke to both of the candidates mentioned. Neither desired to be called by the label given him. Eddie Hamilton, the president, said it is unfortunate that labels have to be a part of the picture in any way. "We are all Christian brothers," he said. Ed Gandy said that he supposed that his determined stand on the Bible might have caused him to be called a "fundamentalist" by some but that he saw himself only as one who is trying to serve the Lord and the denomination in any way that he can.

We don't need labels in the Southern Baptist framework any more than we need them in Mississippi. But we have them. The "we" is used advisedly, for all Mississippi Baptists are Southern Baptists also.

The "conservative" candidate, Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, was chosen by a political group. While it has no name, it is nonetheless a political movement. Its leaders get together annually to determine who is to be candidate. The candidate then is introduced at the group's meeting in February, which is a pastors' conference at First Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

The "moderate" candidate, Daniel

Vestel, pastor of Dunwoody Church, Atlanta, Ga., decided on his own to make the run; but he is supported by the group called Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention. He found someone to nominate him.

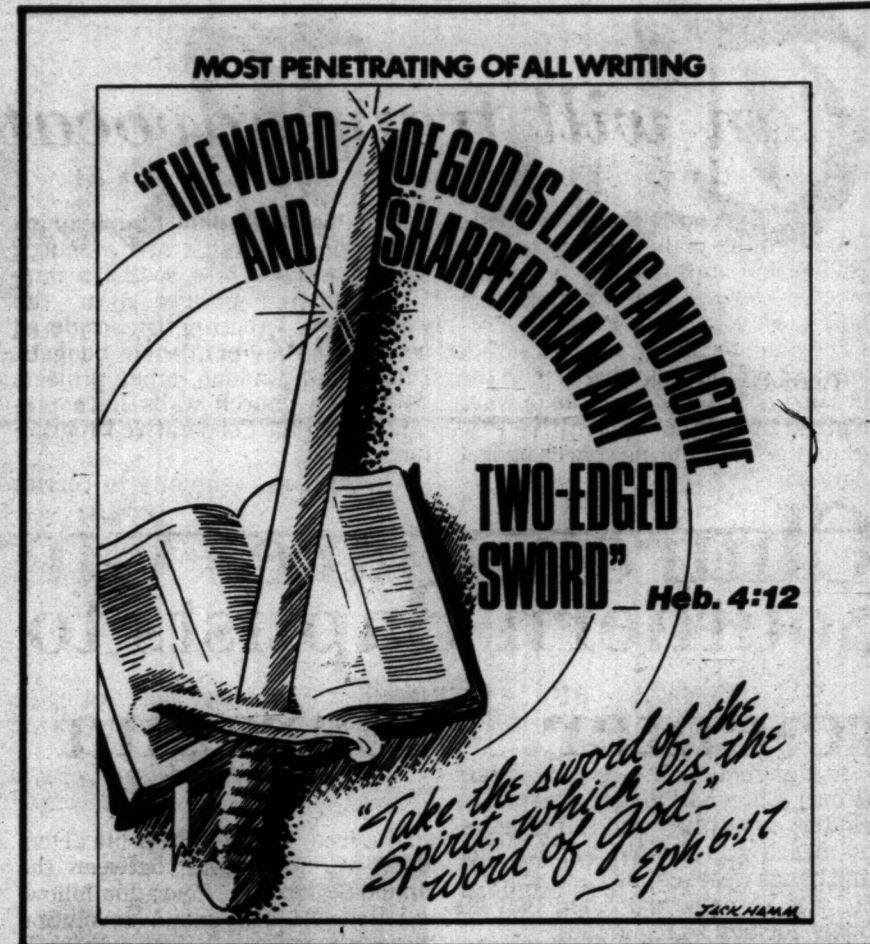
The "conservative" candidate will be nominated by John Bisagno, pastor of First Church, Houston, Texas. Heretofore, Bisagno has maintained his neutrality.

Bisagno issued a six-page paper detailing his reasons for planning to nominate Chapman. He noted that "it is not unity at any cost that will save this denomination. It is unity around a perfect Lord Jesus and all that we know about him found in a perfect book."

That is true.

With all due respect to Bisagno and without wishing to cast any aspersions on Mississippian Chapman, however, it is statements of that nature that are continuing to tear us apart. Who is it among us who doesn't believe that the Lord Jesus is perfect and that the Bible is the perfect Word of God? Statements such as the above tend to make the world and many Southern Baptists believe that there are Southern Baptists who don't believe in these precepts. Such statements would seem to point out that there is a group among us which believes themselves to be and declares themselves to be holier and more able to serve than others among us and excludes those whom they judge to be beyond the boundary.

That they are sincere in their beliefs



is not to be denied. It must be admitted, however, that the problem lies in perceptions and not in the beliefs of some. The group such as is represented by that statement has seemed to set itself up as judge and jury of Southern Baptist beliefs and conditions, and its judgment is faulty. Only when that group comes down off of its lofty perch and decides to reside and work alongside the rest of the people will the controversy subside.

That is not to denigrate in any way the "conservative" candidate. Those

who go to the convention in New Orleans in June should vote for whom they chose without any political considerations. No doubt, either would make a fine president.

The "conservative" candidate, more than likely, would make his appointments, which is a powerful tool, from among those of like persuasion. The "moderate" candidate, more than likely, would make his appointments from a more broadly based listing.

That is where the difference lies and the basis that should be used in making a decision on voting.

of the country. Unskilled and educationally handicapped, the YUB'M are either underemployed, unemployed, unemployable for any number of reasons, or self-employed. It is important to note that if they are self-employed, that does not necessarily imply that they are involved in some sort of illegal self-employment.

"Under mature capitalism, the job most typically offered to undereducated and young Black males is that of the minimum wage security guard—an occupation which entails protecting the property and persons of affluent whites from other Black males of the underclass. American society seems to have made the decision to spend \$100 billion a year more for protection against the underclass than to educate and provide them with jobs.

"We have here a people that are contained geographically, educationally disadvantaged, occupationally obsolete, and economically disenfranchised. It all adds up to what might be called a culture of poverty. Poverty is not just being poor but having a lack of options.

"According to a U.S. Census report, 54 percent of Black males, eight to 29 years old, are living with their parents. Some of them may find temporary shelter with a Black woman who is eligible for public assistance if no adult male is living with her. After these two options, all that is left is homelessness and public begging, or participation in the underground economy." Glasgow adds, "Although

most people are not aware of this fact, Black males ages 15 to 24 are most often not eligible for welfare programs, particularly those supposedly aimed at assisting the poor."

"There is, even now, a lot of anger within the Black community towards the young Black man. And increasingly, if he continues to deteriorate in his ability to function well, he is going to be rejected by Black women. That is happening already. Even low income Black females perceive the Black male as a loser, as troubled, dangerous, and violent. If that continues, we will see Black men become increasingly isolated, rejected not only by the white community but by their own community as well, including the women.

"They are deeply rooted in the here and now: forget this pie in the sky stuff. It is a survivalist mentality in which the YUB'M knows that he is actually in a state of siege. Surviving for one more day is simply a matter of self-determination and self-determinism.

"White believers who seek to work in the Black community, in order to be effective, need to be bicultural."

In the frontier, don't expect an easy ministry.

How will we begin? What are the resources to get us started?

(4) On the associational and church level, mission development can be a key to unlocking the frontier. Starting with a PROBE or needs assessments, (Continued on page 14)

Guest opinion . . .

A new frontier in Mississippi

By Richard Brogan

According to Webster, a frontier is "the last edge of settled country where the wilds begin, part of one country that touches the edge of another." It is apparent to me that the Black community of Mississippi is the new frontier in which to begin Southern Baptist churches. Why?

(1) We have worked alongside National Baptists (denominational name for Black Baptists) for over 50 years, providing training for ministers and laypersons through the Mississippi Baptist Seminary and the Biracial Commission. Cooperative Program funds are not being channeled to this Great Adventure since 1989. Southern Baptists are to be commended for this mission venture. Thousands have been taught. National Baptists will continue their ministry.

(2) Southern Baptists have over 1,300 Black Southern Baptist churches in the United States. We have 12 Black Southern Baptist congregations in Mississippi—Gulfport, Biloxi, Picayune, Greenville, Clarksdale, Batesville, Tupelo, Summit, and four in Jackson. Other churches in Starkville, New Albany, Laurel, Tupelo, and Summit are on the drawing board to help reach over 500,000

unchurched Blacks in Mississippi.

(3) We must redefine our concept of missions. Missions must be done locally in our own backyards and across the tracks. Churches do missions. Associations, conventions, and boards share resources and strategies. If we can go as Southern Baptists by sending our sons and daughters to far away places, we must touch the last edges of our cities and counties whom Jesus called the least among us—the least white, the least educated, the least housed, the least clothed, and the least loved.

We must look at and reach out to the Lazarus at our gate and feed him the gospel of care and compassion. If we maintain a perverted theology of "doing missions over there" and "not here," we will join other church groups who are now in denominational museums where people read about a church that "used to be."

If we can go to Brazil, we can go to Brandon.

If we can go to Kenya, we can go to Kosciusko.

If we can go to Honduras, we can go to Hattiesburg.

If we can go to Colombia, South

America, we can go to Columbia, Mississippi.

If we can go to Paraguay, we can go to Pascagoula.

If we can go to Jordan, we can go to George county.

If we can go to Jamaica, we can go to Jackson.

If we can go to Africa, we can go to Aberdeen.

If we can go to Nigeria, we can go to Nettleton.

If we can go to Belgium, we can go to Batesville.

If we can go to Switzerland, we can go to Starkville.

The need is expressing itself beyond words in the Black community of 1990. Urban Mission magazine says: "Hurt creeps into Black children's eyes when they reach 12 or 13 years of age and sense that they are trapped.

"Forty-four percent of all Black males can be classified as functional illiterates, that is unable to read or comprehend complex written material.

"Douglas Glasgow, in his book, *The Black Underclass*, described them as a permanently entrapped population of poor persons, unused and unwanted, accumulated in various parts

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Plan will train advocates to promote Cooperative Program

By Tim Nicholas

A committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board has been convened to develop a new plan to promote the Cooperative Program.

The plan, basically, is to train "advocates" within churches — with the blessing of the pastors — as to ways to stand up for the Cooperative Program especially during church budget planning.

Architect of the plan, Stan Madden of Baylor University, and a church deacon, studied how Southern Baptists' unified budget plan, the Cooperative Program, is considered when churches plan their budgets. Often, said Madden, other projects within the church walls have promoters, but the Cooperative Program has no one.

The idea is eventually to recruit

people within each church to speak out for the Cooperative Program, helping educate others as to the impact it has on the world.

Madden noted that since 1986, there has been a higher rate of inflation than the Cooperative Program giving rate. Therefore, in real dollars, the Cooperative Program is decreasing.

Madden says he wants to involve

laypersons "at the grassroots level," with training which will "confront people with the opportunity and let them do what's on their heart."

The Cooperative Program Promotion Committee has been charged by the convention board with developing the advocacy plan on a pilot basis, involving about ten percent of Mississippi Baptist churches. After training and study of the impact the

plan has on the churches involved, the plan will be implemented across the convention adding a few churches at the time.

In the next few weeks, the committee, chaired by Ingram Foster of Prentiss, will contact pastors of churches which will be invited to participate in the pilot plan. From there, advocates will be recruited and trained.

Southern Baptists to re-enter Nicaragua

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees voted Feb. 14 to re-establish a missionary presence in Nicaragua.

The trustees' vote authorizes the board to fill a new position of Foreign Mission Board liaison in Managua, Nicaragua's capital. The liaison will "minister in partnership with Baptist communities in Nicaragua," said Joe Bruce, area director for Middle America and Canada.

The liaison missionary will "coordinate and provide logistical support for volunteers, projects, and ministries provided by the Foreign Mission Board to the Baptists of Nicaragua," Bruce said.

No Southern Baptist missionaries have been assigned to Nicaragua since 1983, when the Baptist Convention of Nicaragua advised furloughing missionaries not to return because their physical safety could not be

guaranteed. At that time, political tensions were mounting between the United States and Nicaragua following the 1979 Sandinista revolution there.

Since then, the Foreign Mission Board has maintained contact with Nicaraguan Baptist leaders and provided funds for disaster relief and hunger relief and literature ministry, Bruce said. He and other board officials have visited Nicaragua several times, including a disaster survey trip following Hurricane Joan in 1988.

Two teams of Southern Baptist volunteers have just returned from a construction project on Corn Island, Nicaragua, where they rebuilt historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, demolished by Joan.

The decision to re-enter Nicaragua was an agreement between Nicaraguan Baptists and board officials, Bruce noted. "It wasn't that we closed the door and decided to reopen it," he said. Both groups reached "a mutual decision that the time was right to renew the relationship."

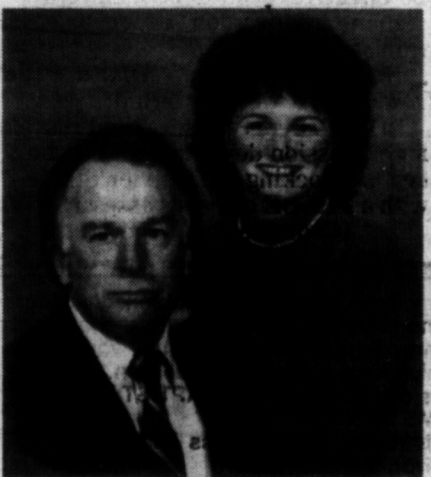
In 1976, the first couple, Stanley and Glenna Stamps of Mississippi, were assigned to begin a literature ministry in Nicaragua at the invitation of Baptists there. They moved to Honduras in 1982. Another couple arrived in 1980 to do music promotion.

The workers to be assigned to Nicaragua probably will be a missionary couple already working in Central America, said Bruce. Once personnel are assigned, Southern Baptists will have missionaries in all Central American countries.

FMB approves Bergerons for Peru duty

Mission Service Corps coordinators for Area 9, (Gulf Coast) Uless and Mary Lee Bergeron, have been approved for appointment by the Foreign Mission Board. They are scheduled to be appointed in July during Jericho week at Glorieta. The Bergerons will serve in Peru where they will work with Volunteers in Missions and establish new work.

They have enlisted many volunteers to serve overseas, as well as in the United States, during the years they have served as Mission Service Corps coordinators in Area 9. They are members of First Church, Bay St. Louis.



Uless and Mary Bergeron

Early '90 gifts exceed those of '89

Mississippi Baptists gave \$1,471,179 through the Cooperative Program in February, according to an announcement by Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which distributes the funds.

The combined total for January and February is \$3,691,510, which is \$714,853 more than for the same period in 1989.

The two month total is also \$427,998 ahead of the pro rata budget for 1990. Total budget for this year is \$19,581,130.

Cooperative Program funds go to missions, child care, and education programs within Mississippi and around the world.

The Second Front Page

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New Orleans SBC to focus on need for church growth

By Marv Knox

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Church growth will take the spotlight during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans' Louisiana Superdome June 12-14.

"The Churches: Edified... Multiplied" will be the theme for the meeting, announced Dwight "Ike" Reighard, pastor of New Hope Church in Fayetteville, Ga., and chair of the SBC Committee on Order of Business.

"As we enter the 1990s, we need to recognize that if Bold Mission Thrust (the SBC campaign to spread the gospel across the globe by the year 2000) is to be a reality, we must emphasize the role of our churches in growth," Reighard said. "We must challenge them with churches and pastors who are building great churches — from the very large churches to smaller churches."

Theme interpreters will be Homer G. Lindsay Jr., co-pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; Larry Wynn, pastor of Hebron Church, in Dacula, Ga.; and Ron Lewis, a church-growth consultant from Nashville.

"Homer Lindsay Jr. is a man who has been used of God to build one of the finest churches in America and one of the largest," Reighard said. "It has set a fine example, both in baptisms and in missions giving."

"To the other extreme is Larry Wynn. In 10 years he has taken a church from running 65 in Sunday School to over 1,200 in Sunday School and last year baptized over 500 people. A lot of people will discover the ministry of Hebron Church during the Southern Baptist Convention."

"Also, Ron Lewis is considered to be one of our greatest experts in the Southern Baptist Convention in the area of church growth. He will do a great job inspiring and motivating our men in church growth."

The SBC annual meeting additionally will feature a message by Jay H. Strack, a vocational evangelist from Dallas.

"Jay is an outstanding revival preacher who spent several years in the pastorate and knows the heart of the pastor," Reighard said. "We're excited about having Jay on the program, representing vocational evangelists in the SBC who share their lives and invest them in local churches."

Strack's place on the program will highlight the role of revival meetings in church growth, Reighard added. That especially will be true in light of the spring "Here's Hope" simultaneous revivals that will have been conducted in Southern Baptist churches across the country by the time of the New Orleans meeting, he noted.

"We've just got a superb program planned for New Orleans," he said. "We feel like we've got some of the

"New Orleans will be a wonderful host city," Reighard noted.

finest speakers in America to share in the areas of church growth."

Two other keynote speeches will be presented during the meeting. SBC President Jerry Vines, co-pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, will give the annual president's address. Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church, in Mobile, Ala., will deliver the convention sermon.

Lindsay will bring the first major address of the meeting, at 9:15 a.m. Tuesday. He will be followed that day by Vines, at 11:25 a.m., and Wynn, at 7:20 p.m. Wolfe will preach at noon Wednesday, followed that day by Lewis, at 7:05 p.m. Strack will speak at 11:30 a.m. Thursday.

Two unique items on the program will be the reports of the SBC's Sunday School Board and Foreign Mis-

sion Board, Reighard said.

The Sunday School Board has been allotted an extra-long segment for its report so it may launch the celebration of its 100th anniversary in 1991, he explained. Board President Lloyd Elder of Nashville will preside over the report Wednesday at 10:15 a.m.

The Foreign Mission Board's report will feature a missionary appointment service, an unusual event at SBC annual meetings, Reighard noted. Board President R. Keith Parks of Richmond, Va., will lead in that report and service Wednesday at 7:55 p.m.

The annual meeting also is when messengers from Southern Baptist churches meet to conduct SBC business. Six hours of business have been spread across the three days.

During that time, messengers will elect a successor to Vines, who has served two one-year terms as president. They will vote on a proposed \$137.3 million unified allocation budget that will help support evangelistic, ministry, and educational endeavors worldwide. They also will vote whether to keep the nine-denomination Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs as their primary religious liberty organization or whether to transfer that responsibility to the SBC Christian Life Commission.

"We feel we've got an extremely well-rounded program," Reighard said. "There's going to be a lot of attention on the election of a new president to succeed Jerry Vines. But we hope all the focus won't be on that issue. We've put together a program that I think folks will enjoy and find challenging."

Record numbers of those folks may attend the meeting, he predicted.

"I believe we're going to have one of the largest — if not the largest — Southern Baptist Conventions on record," he said. The record was set in 1985 in Dallas, when 45,519 messengers attended.

Knox writes for BP.

Q & A on Drugs . . .

How can I help?

How can I help an alcoholic/drug addict who does not want help?

I have heard this question asked countless times from family members of concerned others who have a sincere desire to reach out to someone who is chemically dependent. Most of us who recognize a problem in our lives depend on God and those people he has placed in our lives to help us. We "recognize" a problem and desire help. Alcoholics/drug addicts many times do not "see" a problem with chemical dependency — it's always something or someone causing the problems. The way to escape — drink or use drugs. This is the thinking of the chemically-dependent person.

It is very frustrating for those who really want to help the alcoholic. Many times family members think that the person should be "willing" to go to treatment and accept help. This is not the case. I have admitted several thousand patients and no one wants to be in treatment; therefore, they really do not come to treatment willingly. There is always something or someone to cause that person to get

help, whether it be loss of family or job, legal problems, or serious physical or psychological problems. Something or someone "forces" the chemically-dependent person to seek help.

Since "denial" plays a major role in the disease of chemical dependency, it is necessary to break through the denial in an effort to bring the person to an awareness of what chemical dependency has done to his life and to the lives of those who love him and care about him. This is not an easy process. It is imperative that the family members be factual, supportive, and cohesive in their effort to help the alcoholic. They must, in a caring way, point out to the alcoholic what the disease is doing to him/her and the problems it is causing in all areas of their lives — and alcoholism/drug addiction does affect every area of the person's life. There are ways to approach the individual you wish to help. Several family members and significant others who are aware of specific problems that are occurring can try to encourage the person to go to treatment; an "intervention" can be done

in the presence of a therapist who can guide you through this process, and a legal commitment can be obtained. Helping someone who does not want help is difficult, but it is not impossible.

It can be a painful process but we must be willing to take the risk. If we do not, the alcoholic may never receive the help that is available. We can depend on God to help us, and we can call on those whom God has called to work in this profession. The program of Alcoholics Anonymous is a spiritual program. God is the One who gives the strength to overcome the road to self-destruction.

This questions was answered by J. Robert Faulkner, admissions coordinator Mississippi Baptist Chemical Dependency Center.

Please send all your questions about drug and alcohol dependency to Chaplain Don Nerren, 1225 N. State St., Jackson, MS 39202-2002, or call toll free outside Jackson at 1-800-962-6868 or in Jackson at 968-1102. All questions will be answered in letter form whether or not they appear in this column.



Singing churchmen

Church music conference to take place in Clinton

The Mississippi Baptist Church Music Conference will take place at Mississippi College, March 22-23, featuring Terry York and Harry Causey as speakers and with the Mississippi Singing Churchmen among musical guests.

York is project coordinator for the soon to be published "The Baptist Hymnal," by the Sunday School Board. Causey is a musician and writer living in Rockville, Md.

Besides the Churchmen, presenting music will be the Churchmen Bells; One Voice, a music and drama group; and three Mississippi College groups: The Naturals, The Madrigals, and the Concert Choir.

There will be a residing session with music from Genevex and other publishers.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. in the Aven Fine Arts Building at MC.

There are three pre-conference events: a rehearsal for Mississippi Singing Churchmen, a session on

"Women in Church Music," led by Causey; and a session on "Practical Starters for New Ministers of Music," led by York.

The conference begins at 1 p.m. and concludes at 12:15 the next day.

The Mississippi Singing Churchmen will present their concert at 7 p.m., March 22, at First Church, Clinton, across the street from MC. They will hold their annual retreat at Twin Lakes Conference Center, Florence, March 23-24.



Causey



York

Mississippi Baptist activities

- Mar. 18-25 Simultaneous Revivals-North Mississippi (EVAN)
- Mar. 22-23 Church Music Conference; Mississippi College, Clinton; 10 a.m., 22nd-Noon, 23rd (CM)
- Mar. 23-25 Campers on Mission Spring Rally; North Mississippi; 5 p.m., 23rd-Noon, 25th (CoMI)

Foreign Board

Trustees elect Law, hear of growth

By Robert O'Brien

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees heard reports of upsurges in overseas baptisms and other mission results, elected a woman vice president and honored R. Keith Parks on his 10th anniversary as board president at their February meeting.

They also authorized reopening missionary work in Nicaragua and opening work in Denmark, appointed 29 missionaries, reaffirmed the board's longstanding policy against appointing divorced people as missionaries and made requirements for the missionary associate program more flexible.

Trustees and staff opened the three-day meeting with a half-day "solemn assembly," based on the Old Testament practice of calling people to repentance and prayer. Prayers, Scripture reading and presentations during the assembly resulted in deepened relationships and set the tone for the rest of the meeting, according to participants.

"A good bit of private confession occurred that caused staff and trustees to face our personal relationship with Christ and, as always, this results in a closer relationship with each other," said Parks. "We learned some of our perceptions about each other weren't accurate."

"Our goal was to take a spiritual inventory . . . and break down barriers between trustees and staff," said trustee John Jackson of Anaheim, Calif., who chaired a committee that planned the assembly. Noting those barriers are beginning to fall, he said: "God met us in our solemn assembly, and I believe there was something that touched each of our hearts. If we're responsible for millions of dollars being spent and for sending missionaries around the world, we as trustees need to have a heart for God."

The trustees closed their meeting with a tribute to Parks' 10 years of leadership as president, following a celebration held earlier by the staff.

A statistical review of 1989 reveals an upsurge in baptisms, church membership, churches, Sunday school enrollment and discipleship training in churches related to Southern Baptist foreign mission work, Parks said.

Overseas churches baptized 227,437 people — an increase of 14.9 percent over 1988 and a ratio of one baptism for every 10.7 church members. The ratio is one for every 40 members in Southern Baptist churches in the United States.

The number of Baptist churches overseas increased 10.6 percent, from 19,199 to 21,239. Overseas membership went up by 345,818, a 16.4 percent increase, to 2.4 million. Meanwhile, Sunday school enrollment added 356,535 new members, a 23.4 percent increase to 1.9 million, and discipleship training saw an increase of 1,120, to 19,764.

Although mission congregations or "preaching points" increased from 18,250 to 21,234, only 5.4 percent of the congregations counted in 1988 became churches in 1989, said Jim Slack of the board's research and planning office. Slack, who said a realistic rate is 20 percent, noted that the board has "started concentrating more on the maturing of new units into churches."

Betty F. Law, 61, associate area director for Spanish South America, elected with two dissenting votes vice president for the Americas.

She will oversee mission work in Middle America, Canada, Brazil, the Caribbean and Spanish South America and participate in the board's Global Strategy Group, a long-range planning body of top administrators.

Parks, addressing trustees before Law's election, noted that some trustees had questioned whether a woman should have leadership and authority over men. He urged them not to apply interpretations of Scripture to leadership roles beyond the local church.

"The Foreign Mission Board is not a church," he said. "We have spiritual dimensions. We have spiritual functions. But we are a business organization. We are an agency of this denomination." The board has other women in supervisory roles and has women among its 90 trustees, he added.

Law's 25 years as a missionary in Cuba and Spain with her husband, the late Thomas Law Jr., and nine years as a board administrator gave her the insight and experience needed for her new job, Parks said. He added that her missionary homemaker experience would give the Global Strategy Group a perspective needed for relating to missionary wives who are assigned as church and home workers. They make up the largest percentage of the foreign missionary force.

Parks also addressed concerns voiced by some trustees that Law has not earned a seminary degree. The degree had been a job requirement for the post and is required for many missionaries she will oversee. The board has to look at the whole picture when filling a staff position, not just one requirement, Parks said.

The "lack of a degree has been more than compensated for in her own personal study and experience," he said. Law has a master's degree in Spanish literature and completed 18 hours of seminary study.

Bob Claytor, a trustee from Rome, Ga., and member of the board's committee on the Americas, said the committee questioned Law in depth about her views on theology and current issues and was "extremely satisfied with her ability to handle that (and) with the soundness of her theology. The bottom line for us, especially for me, was that she (demonstrated) the scriptural knowledge necessary for the role. However she's gotten it, she's got it."

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The Baptist Record

P. O. Box 530

Jackson, MS 39205

Southern Baptist Convention

June 12-14, 1990

Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans
Theme: "The Churches: Edified . . . Multiplied"

Scripture: "Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied." (Acts 9:31)

Tuesday Morning

- 8:20 Music for Inspiration — First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; Choir, Rick Stone, director, and orchestra, Ed Dickinson, director
 - 8:40 Call to Order Congregational Singing — John McKay, convention music director, Keller, Texas
 - 8:45 Prayer — Robert Covington, layman, Fayetteville, Ga.
 - 8:50 Registration Report and Constitution of Convention — Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary, design editor, Sunday School division, Sunday School Board, Nashville
 - 8:55 Committee on Order of Business (First Report) — Dwight Reighard, chairman, pastor, New Hope Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Ga.
 - 9:00 Welcome — Mark Short, executive director, Louisiana Baptist Convention, Alexandria
 - 9:05 Response — Junior Hill, evangelist, Hartselle, Ala.
 - 9:10 Announcement of Committee on Committees, Credentials, Resolutions, and Tellers
 - 9:15 Theme Interpretation — Homer G. Lindsay Jr., co-pastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
 - 9:40 Executive Committee Report (Part 1) — Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer, Nashville
 - 10:40 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
 - 11:05 Congregational Singing — John McKay
 - 11:10 Music — First Baptist Church Choir and Orchestra, Jacksonville, Fla.; Martha Branham, First Baptist Church, Dallas
 - 11:25 President's Address — Jerry Vines, co-pastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
 - 12:00 Benediction — Jack Millwood, pastor, First Baptist Church of North Mobile, Chickasaw, Ala.
- Theme Song: "It's Harvest Time"

Tuesday Afternoon

- 1:00 Evangelistic Singers — Jim Bob Griffin Family, music evangelists, Rusk, Texas; First Impressions Quartet, Rome, Ga.; The SITES, Woodstock, Ga.; GiGi Summers, music evangelist, North Augusta, SC; Jay McKay Family, music evangelists, Rusk, Texas; Lino Lopez, flutist, Fort Worth, Texas; The Balltzglers, music evangelists, Griffin, Ga.
 - 2:00 Congregational Singing — Jim Bob Griffin
 - 2:05 Prayer — Rick Stanley, evangelist, Fort Walton Beach, Fla.
 - 2:10 Messenger Information Survey
 - 2:20 Business
 - Committee on Order of Business (Second Report) — Dwight Reighard
 - Introduction of Business and Resolutions
 - 2:30 Election of Officers (First)
 - 2:45 Committee on Nominations Report — Roland Lopez, chairman, McAllen, Texas
 - 3:00 Congregational Singing — Jay McKay
 - 3:05 Executive Committee Report (Part 2) — Harold C. Bennett
 - 4:00 Congregational Singing — Philip Griffin, minister of music, Highland Baptist Church, Laurel, Miss.
 - 4:05 Business
 - Committee on Order of Business (Third Report) — Dwight Reighard
 - Committee on Committees Report
 - Introduction of Business and Resolutions
 - Miscellaneous Business
 - 4:45 Election of Officers (Second)
 - 5:00 Benediction — J.L. Hendrix, layman, Winnsboro, La.
- Theme Song: "It's Harvest Time"

Tuesday Evening

- 6:30 Music for Inspiration — First Baptist Church Choir and Orchestra, Springdale, Ark., Buster Pray, director
 - 7:00 Congregational Singing — John McKay
 - 7:05 Prayer — Curt Dodd, pastor, Metropolitan Baptist Church, Houston
 - 7:10 Election of Officers (Third)
 - 7:20 Theme Interpretation — Larry Wynn, pastor, Hebron Baptist Church, Dacula, Ga.
 - 7:40 Congregational Singing — Bill Cole, minister of music, Sagemont Baptist Church, Houston
 - 7:45 Bold Mission Thrust Report — Harold C. Bennett
 - 8:00 Commission on American Baptist Seminary Report — Arthur L. Walker, secretary-treasurer, Nashville
 - 8:05 Historical Commission — Lynn E. May Jr., executive director, Nashville
 - 8:15 Radio and Television Commission — Richard T. McCartney, executive vice president, Fort Worth, Texas
 - 8:25 Congregational Singing — William A. Cox Jr., manager, conference center section, Sunday School Board, Nashville
 - 8:30 Home Mission Board Report — Larry L. Lewis, president, Atlanta
 - 9:30 Benediction — Bill Purvis, pastor, Cascade Hills Baptist Church, Columbus, Ga.
- Theme Song: "It's Harvest Time"

Wednesday Morning

- 8:30 Music for Inspiration — Cottage Hill Baptist Church Choir and Orchestra, Mobile, Ala., Ed Keyes, director
- 8:50 Congregational Singing — John McKay
- 8:55 Prayer — Darrell Gillyard, Providence Baptist Church, Dallas
- 9:00 Election of Officers (Fourth)
- 9:10 Stewardship Commission Report — A.R. Fagan, president, Nashville
- 9:20 Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Report — Lewis A. Drum-

- mond, president, Wake Forest, N.C.
 - 9:30 Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Report — Milton Ferguson, president, Kansas City, Mo.
 - 9:40 Education Commission Report — Arthur L. Walker, executive director, Nashville
 - 9:50 Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Report — Russell H. Dilley, president, Fort Worth, Texas
 - 10:00 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Report — Roy L. Honeycutt, president, Louisville, Ky.
 - 10:10 Congregational Singing — Tim Holder, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Cleveland, Texas
 - 10:15 Baptist Sunday School Report — Lloyd Elder, president, Nashville
 - 11:05 Congregational Singing — Fred Gilbert, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Lake Jackson, Texas
 - 11:10 Election of Officers (Fifth)
 - 11:15 Business
 - Committee on Order of Business (Fourth Report) — Dwight Reighard
 - Committee on Resolutions (First Report)
 - Miscellaneous Business
 - 11:50 Congregational Singing — John McKay
 - 11:55 Music — Cottage Hill Baptist Church Choir and Orchestra, Mobile, Ala.
 - 12:00 Convention Sermon — Fred Wolfe, pastor, Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.
 - 12:30 Benediction — Ronnie Floyd, pastor, First Baptist Church, Springdale, Ark.
- Theme Song: "It's Harvest Time"

NO WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Wednesday Evening

- 6:10 Music for Inspiration — Dauphin Way Baptist Church Choir and Orchestra, Mobile, Ala., Todd Bell, director
 - 6:30 Music — The Cathedral Quartet, Stowe, Ohio
 - 6:55 Congregational Singing — John McKay
 - 7:00 Prayer — Don Sharpe, pastor, Faith Tabernacle Baptist Church, Chicago
 - 7:05 Theme Interpretation — Ron Lewis, church growth consultant, Nashville
 - 7:25 Business
 - Committee on Order of Business (Fifth Report)
 - Election of Convention Sermon Preacher and Alternate, and Music Director, 1991
 - 7:30 Introduction of Local Arrangements Committee
 - 7:35 Presentation of Past Presidents
 - 7:45 Presentation of Newly Elected SBC Officers
 - 7:50 Congregational Singing — R.O. Stone, minister of music, Trinity Baptist Church, Ocala, Fla.
 - 7:55 Foreign Mission Board Report and Appointment Service — R. Keith Parks, president, Richmond, Va.
 - 9:25 Benediction — Robert Sherrill, pastor, Pecks Baptist Church, Bedford, Va.
- Theme Song: "It's Harvest Time"

Thursday Morning

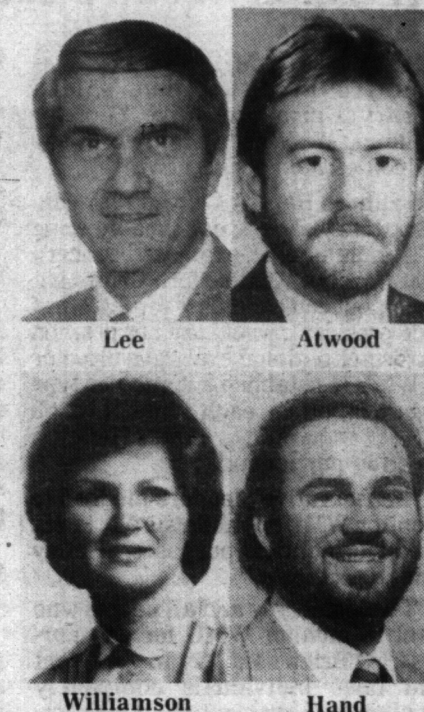
- 8:30 Music for Inspiration — First Baptist Church Choir and Orchestra, Jackson, Miss., Larry Black, director
 - 8:50 Congregational Singing — John McKay
 - 8:55 Prayer — Bob Sena, pastor, First Spanish Baptist Church, Atlanta
 - 9:00 Business
 - Committee on Resolutions (Final Report)
 - 10:00 Southern Baptist Foundation Report — Hollis E. Johnson III, president, Nashville
 - 10:10 Christian Life Commission Report — Richard D. Land, executive director, Nashville
 - 10:20 Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary Report — William O. Crews, president, Mill Valley, Calif.
 - 10:30 Congregational Singing — Bill Cole
 - 10:35 Brotherhood Commission Report — James H. Smith, president, Memphis, Tenn.
 - 10:45 New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Report — Landrum P. Leavell II, president, New Orleans
 - 10:55 Annuity Board Report — Paul W. Powell, president, Dallas
 - 11:05 Recognition of Outgoing Officers — Harold C. Bennett
 - 11:15 Congregational Singing — John McKay
 - 11:20 Music
 - 11:30 Message — Jay H. Strack, evangelist, Dallas
 - 12:00 Benediction — Victor Walsh, layman, McComb, Miss.
- Theme Song: "It's Harvest Time"

Thursday Afternoon

- 1:30 Music for Inspiration — Alan Celoria Family, music evangelists, Jackson, Miss.; Lee Porter II, minister of music, University Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La.; Varnard Johnson, music evangelist, Fort Worth, Texas
- 1:55 Congregational Singing — Jim Bob Griffin
- 2:00 Prayer — Bill Langley, pastor, First Baptist Church, Mustang, Okla.
- 2:05 Introduction of Fraternal Representatives
- 2:10 Denominational Press Report — Alvin C. Shackleford, vice-president for public relations, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville
- 2:20 American Bible Society Report — Fred A. Allen, church relations director, New York
- 2:30 Denominational Calendar Committee Report — Leon B. Hataway, chairman, Grand Junction, Colo.
- 2:40 Baptist World Alliance Report

(Continued on page 14)

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5
Thursday, March 8, 1990



Student leaders will train at Gulfshore

Leadership training for Baptist Student Unions on 28 campuses will take place March 30-April 1 at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian.



Causey

"Reaching for the Best" is the theme of the conference. The annual Leadership Training Conference (LTC) will feature commissioning of newly-selected 1990 BSU summer missionaries, inspirational speakers, specialized training for the various BSU officers, and election of state officers for 1990-91. Christi Gray of USM is current BSU president.

Speakers include Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Dottie Williamson, missionary church planter in Pearl River County, and Bob Lee, director of student work for Oklahoma Baptists.

Music will be led by Dennis Atwood, associate BSU director at the University of Southern Mississippi, and Kevin Hand, pastor of Countryside Baptist Mission, Tickfaw, La.

Singing groups performing during the weekend include Turning Point from Itawamba Community College, Upward Journey from Mississippi Delta Community College, and Children of the Light from Copiah-Lincoln Community College.

Among a series of leader lab topics will be discipleship and Bible study, working with internationals, black student involvement, and ministry teams to churches.

Liking people is one of the important ingredients of getting the most out of life. If you like people, you have a zest, an enthusiasm for working and for living — you give of yourself to others and, in return, you find yourself getting a great deal from them. Once it becomes a part of you it will pay dividends, not only in your work but in sheer enjoyment of living. Try it and see for yourself. — Samuel Goldwyn

In the pink is the way you feel when you get out of the red. — (Dell Crossword Puzzles)

WMU executive director welcomes 'monitoring'

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Dellanna W. O'Brien said Feb. 28 she welcomes monitoring of WMU.

Southern Baptist Convention "conservative" leaders, during a meeting in Atlanta Feb. 22, expressed concern that Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, an announced candidate for SBC first vice president, would use her position as former national executive director of WMU to establish a "precinct-type organization" in each state through WMU," according to James Hefley, a meeting participant.

"Conservative" leaders pledged to monitor WMU to make sure it is not used "for political purposes," Hefley said.

"I welcome any and all people who want to monitor WMU for any purpose," O'Brien said. "I am confident that once individuals completely monitor our organization, their commitment to missions — not controversy — will be challenged."

Those monitoring WMU may find themselves challenged to join other WMU members "in our single commitment to missions — studying it, supporting it and participating in it," O'Brien said.

O'Brien outlined several avenues for monitoring WMU:

- By attending local church WMU meetings and activities — including Baptist Women (for women ages 35 and older), Baptist Young Women (for women ages 18-34), Acteens (for girls in grades seven through 12), Girls in Action (for girls in grades one through six), and Mission Friends (for preschool boys and girls);

- By participating in associational WMU meetings, activities and sponsored events;

- By attending state WMU meetings, retreats and activities, such as the annual state WMU house party or annual meeting, and state BW and BYW retreats;

- By participating in the national WMU annual meetings. This year, the national WMU annual meeting will be held June 11-12 at the New Orleans Convention Center. "For me, the WMU annual meeting is the most inspirational and exciting meeting of the whole Southern Baptist Convention, because we celebrate missions," O'Brien said. The first session begins at 2:15 p.m. Sunday, June 11;

- By subscribing to all WMU organizational periodicals — Dimension magazine for WMU and church leaders; Royal Service magazine for Baptist Women; Contempo magazine for Baptist Young Women; Accent magazine for Acteens; Discovery magazine for Girls in Action; Aware magazine for GA leaders, and Start and Share periodicals for Mission Friends members and leaders;

- By subscribing to Magazine, a quarterly publication for pastors' wives which is produced by WMU, and to Prayer Patterns, a monthly publication to aid all church members

in their prayer efforts for missions; and

- By purchasing each product produced by WMU or New Hope, a publishing arm of WMU which provides missions-related materials for the broader Christian market.

O'Brien also issued a public invitation for any of the convention leaders — regardless of their political stance — to visit the national WMU headquarters in Birmingham, where they will be given a VIP tour and opportunities to visit with national staff members.

The pledge by "conservative" leaders to monitor WMU could not come at a more appropriate time, O'Brien said.

"Any time missions is monitored, nothing but good can come of it," O'Brien said. "Perhaps those who are monitoring WMU will see how much more there is to be done. They can be strategic catalysts in moving Southern Baptists toward a stronger missions commitment."

WMU promotes Joyce Mitchell

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Joyce Mitchell has been named associate executive director at Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, effective March 1.

She will direct the work of the missions services system in WMU's Birmingham, Ala., national office.

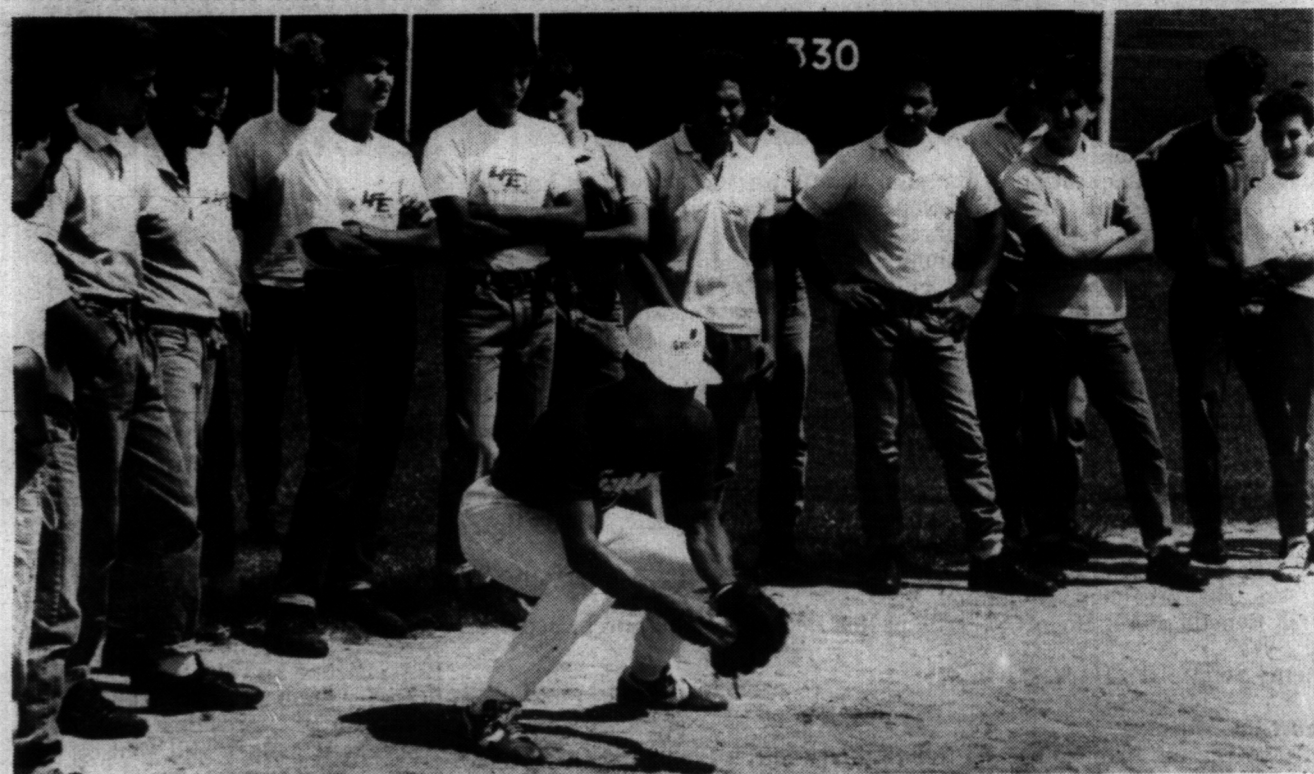
Mitchell will fill the position formerly held by Catherine Allen. Allen left the WMU in October to become executive director of the Samford University Sesquicentennial Commission.

Mitchell will join two other associate executive directors — June Whitlow and Bobbie Sorrell and Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien — on the WMU executive council.

In her new position, Mitchell will oversee the staff services and publishing services sections.

Mitchell has been director of the WMU interpretation section.

Betty Merrell, age-level magazines group manager at the national WMU office, will succeed Mitchell as director of the interpretation section.



Baseball helps Baptists hit homer

Venezuelan baseball hero Omar Vizquel, a shortstop with the Seattle Mariners, demonstrates fielding techniques during a baseball clinic in Caracas, Venezuela. Vizquel is one of several professional players who have helped Southern Baptist missionary Bill Cashion lead the clinics. Through the clinics,

young people learn how to improve baseball skills and how to become a Christian. These participants attend the Caracas high school from which Vizquel graduated. (BP) PHOTO by Don Rutledge

FMB trustees uphold policy on divorce

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees unanimously agreed Feb. 14 that the board continue its longstanding policy of not appointing divorced people as missionaries.

The trustee action, following a yearlong study, was in response to a motion adopted at the 1988 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting calling for an evaluation of the mission board's divorce policy.

"From the outset, our committee was determined to do a comprehensive study of the matter of appointing missionary personnel with a history of divorce," said Harmon Moore of Indianapolis, chairman of the special trustee committee that studied the divorce issue and recommended reaffirmation of the policy.

"We did not approach this study with our minds made up on what the conclusions ought to be," said Moore. "I know that the conclusion will not suit everybody by any means. This thing has been brought up at the

Southern Baptist Convention for a new explanation more years than it hasn't."

The committee studied theological issues surrounding divorce, Christian ministry and divorce, missiological and practical issues and other relevant matters. It also gathered information from surveys sent to other evangelical missionary sending groups, theological papers written by committee members and surveys of national attitudes in 116 countries where Southern Baptist missionaries work.

"We approached the entire problem with compassion for those who have had a divorce," Moore said. "We sought to learn how (Baptists overseas) would respond to persons with a history of divorce. We tried to be sensitive to our biblical moorings and avoid basing our report purely on current sociological issues. We think we have done the most thorough study on the matter since the Foreign Mission Board was formed."

Task Force named, Great Commission Breakthrough

NASHVILLE (BP) — A task force has been appointed and pretesting will begin soon on a national plan to offer church growth training to each of more than 42,000 Southern Baptist churches and missions.

Developed by the Sunday School division of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, the Great Commission Breakthrough project will be conducted in most churches and missions between 1992 and 1995. A pilot project with 300 to 500 churches will be conducted between October 1990 and September 1991.

The three-day event will be customized for each church by the pastor and a Breakthrough specialist to help the church use its Sunday School to stimulate church growth, said Harry Piland, director of the Sunday School division.

The specialist will work with a

church for up to a year with pre-event planning, the three-day church event and follow-up evaluation.

In the planning phase, the specialist will collect data about the church, meet with the pastor and church leaders, identify needs of the church and community, identify strengths of the church and plan the focus event.

The pastor and specialist will lead the three-day event. The specialist will make several visits to the church in two- or three-month intervals to help the church celebrate achievements and to agree on additional steps to be taken.

Garry Insko, field service specialist in the Sunday School division, will be task force manager. Task force members are Jerri Herring, Steve Harbin, Joe Haynes, and Willie Beatty, growth consultants in the Sunday School growth and administration department; and Alan Tungett, con-

sultant in the adult Sunday School program section.

Ex-officio members of the task force are Wayne Etheridge, Sunday School growth and administration department; Jay Wells, black church development section; Ernest Adams, field service strategy and coordination section; Earl Waldrup, special assistant for church relations in the Sunday School division; and James Lackey, director of the Sunday School growth and administration department.

Task force members will give priority to Great Commission Breakthrough responsibilities and will be released from some other responsibilities through the pretesting and pilot phases of the project, Piland said.

Pretesting will be conducted in as many as 50 churches by September

1990. Waldrup is working with churches that may become the first to be involved in the pretesting. Initial pretest events may be conducted as soon as early April, Insko predicted.

Pretesting will be conducted in various sizes and types of churches in different areas of the country, he said.

Results of the pretest will be used to plan the pilot phase with between 300 and 500 churches between October 1990 and September 1991.

Breakthrough specialists for the pilot project will be trained in October 1990, with one specialist for each pilot project church.

Pilot project specialists will be enlisted from the Sunday School division, state convention staffs, directors of missions and other key leaders, Insko said.

"The pilot will tell us whether using volunteers will work or not," he reported. Unlike other Sunday School

field service events, specialists will not be paid an honorarium. Expenses will be shared by the Sunday School division, state Baptist conventions and participating churches.

"We hope people will be compelled to do this as an effort to get churches involved in evangelism," Insko explained.

For the actual project, as many as 7,000 specialists will be needed to conduct Breakthrough events in the 42,000 Southern Baptist churches and missions, Insko said.

Piland first presented the Great Commission Breakthrough project to state Sunday School directors meeting in May 1989. He called together a planning group of 30 people including state Sunday School directors, ministers of education, directors of missions, seminary professors, pastors and lay Sunday School leaders, in July 1989 for initial planning of the project.

"Conservatives" endorse Chapman; urge coalition of inerrantists

By Greg Warner

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — Leaders of the "conservative" movement in the Southern Baptist Convention unveiled their candidate for SBC president Feb. 12 and urged Southern Baptists who have shunned politics in the last decade to join them in a historic new coalition around "the perfect, infallible Bible."

Texas pastor Morris Chapman, whose candidacy for president was announced the previous week, spoke briefly Feb. 12 at the annual pastors' school and Bible conference at First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., where current SBC President Jerry Vines is pastor.

Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, was joined on the platform by Vines and former President Adrian Rogers, who called the event "the most historic thing that has happened in these 11 years."

Chapman, who made a last-minute decision to fly to Jacksonville for the conference, received a long-distance endorsement from Houston pastor John Bisagno, whose telephone message was relayed to the audience of more than 3,500.

Bisagno issued a five-page statement Feb. 8 endorsing both Chapman and the conservative movement. In the past, Bisagno has positioned himself as a mediator in the denomination's theological-political controversy; but in the statement, he aligned himself with the conservative movement and called Chapman "a man committed to the completion of the correction begun 11 years ago."

Vines, in introducing the telephone call from Bisagno, pastor of First Baptist Church of Houston, said the statement marks the start of "a great coalescing of Bible-believing people"

who have not yet been involved in the conservative effort.

"I want what I am saying to be dead center, bull's eye, perfectly clear," Bisagno told the audience. "The goal of the past 11 years and more — that every denominational servant and every institutional staff member not only believe in, but teach and perpetuate belief in a perfect, infallible Bible — must not change."

"While holding unwaveringly to that cause, I am calling for a historic new day. My challenge is to every Southern Baptist within any political parameter who shares that conviction to stand up and say so. Too many of us who feel this way have been silent too long."

"I am calling for a togetherness of shared leadership, transcending anything seen before, to perpetuate an unshakable commitment to teach a perfect Bible in every classroom in the land. I believe that a coalition of all those in or out of any political entity committed to this common goal can bring a quick end to the struggle."

Calling the event "historic," Homer Lindsay, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville along with Vines, told the audience many leaders such as Bisagno who have stayed out of the controversy "are coming to the realization that they can remain neutral no longer."

Lindsay said Bisagno "is in the process of bringing these men out of neutrality," and he said other yet-unannounced leaders will make similar statements soon. Lindsay said Vines also has been working to bring in unaligned pastors, telling them "they have to decide if, in the Southern Baptist Convention, they want a split or a splinter."

"If the majority of Southern Baptists believe in this word, then they are the ones that should prevail," Lindsay said. "And if it's the minority that do not believe in this word, then they are the ones who should keep quiet or leave."

"Now, if you don't want to see your convention taken over by liberals, then you'd better get to New Orleans, for the SBC meeting in June," Lindsay told the audience, many of whom were pastors.

Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., and a speaker on the Bible conference program, told participants, "This is the most historic thing that has happened in these 11 years, when men like Dr. John Bisagno, whom I love and respect, say it's time to line up with what began 11 years ago."

Rogers urged conference participants to "do all you can" to elect Chapman president in New Orleans. Rogers then introduced Chapman, noting he asked the Texas pastor to attend the Jacksonville meeting. "He is doctrinally straight, morally pure, eminently qualified," Rogers said. "My dear friends, he has been through the fire. He has paid the price."

Chapman was greeted with a standing ovation by the Jacksonville audience. "I am 100 percent, totally committed to the inerrancy and infallibility of the Word of God," he said. "I don't know the will of God about the election, but I do believe God will stand with those who stand for the truth."

Rogers, with his arm around Chapman, led a prayer for the Texas pastor and his candidacy.

Greg Warner is associate editor of the Florida state paper



DOM Liaison Committee

Directors of missions have named a Missions Liaison Committee, 1990-91, with rotating terms. This committee serves as a link between the DOMs and the convention, to maintain open communication and support. The six members of the committee for 1990 are, left to right, Bobby Perry, DOM, Gulf Coast; Talmadge Smith, DOM, Copiah/Lincoln; Jerald Welch, DOM, Holmes, Humphreys, LeFlore; Leon Young, DOM, Lauderdale/Noxubee; Marvin Cox, DOM, Union County; and Bill McCreary, DOM, Benton-Tippah. The committee members will serve a two-year term. They met at the Baptist Building in January.



Wayne Gullett leads DOMs

The Directors of Missions Fellowship, which meets four times a year, has elected Wayne Gullett, right, director of missions, Calhoun Association, as president; Kenneth Rhodes, left, DOM, Pearl River Association, as secretary/treasurer; and Marvin Cox, center, DOM, Union County Association, as vice president. Gullett said that the Conference of Directors of Missions "is committed to assist churches in reaching the world for our Lord. They offer support for all DOMs and associations in Mississippi. They are part of the mission team that brings the Good News of Jesus to the world."

SBC unsettled, not divided, Chapman says

By Dan Martin

WICHITA FALLS, Texas (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention is unsettled but not divided, Morris Chapman said.

Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, made the assessment during an interview with Baptist Press following the announcement he would be the "conservatives'" candidate for president of the SBC at the 1990 annual meeting June 12 in New Orleans.

"I think we are an unsettled denomination," Chapman, 49, said. "We are groping for our way, but we are far from being a divided denomination."

"We are unsettled over the nature and authority of God's Word."

Chapman, who was introduced as the "conservatives'" candidate Feb. 12 during the annual Pastors' School and Bible Conference at First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., said in the interview he believes "the cry of Southern Baptists presently is to return to our historic Baptist principles and practices."

The key to those bedrock principles and practices, he said, is that "our God who is perfect in nature has given us a Bible which is perfect in nature."

"Southern Baptists in the convention setting have established a strong commitment to the perfect Word of God. It is imperative that we agree theologically that the Word of God is the inspired, infallible, inerrant Bible."

Chapman, in a statement released following the announcement of plans to nominate him as president, said:

"If I am honored by being elected... my heart's desire is to be used of God to reach beyond perceived political parameters of our convention to bring us together again."

"The time has come to enlarge the tent of our beloved Southern Baptist Convention to encompass all cooperating Southern Baptists who are dedicated to perpetuating our allegiance to the Bible as the perfect Word from a perfect God."

"We must stay the course of this commitment in the spirit of broadened togetherness and shared leadership."

In announcing Chapman as the "conservative" standard bearer, "conservative" leaders urged Southern Baptists who have shunned participation in the theological-political controversy of the past decade to join them in a new coalition around "the perfect, infallible Bible."

Chapman told Baptist Press he plans to "continue to refocus and even sharpen the focus upon what I believe to be the one true issue (of the controversy): the nature and authority of Scripture. Thus, I am reaching out to all persons, desiring to draw together all Southern Baptists who believe in the perfect nature of the Bible, regardless of previous or present political persuasions."

Southern Baptists, in the 1987 annual meeting in St. Louis, in adopting the report of the Peace Committee interpreted "truth without any mixture of error," Chapman said. The phrase is a key statement in the Baptist Faith and Message Statement of 1963 and

has been a point of dispute in the controversy.

Chapman quoted the report, which said the phrase meant "these four precepts: Adam and Eve were real persons; the named authors did write the biblical books attributed to them by those books; the miracles were supernatural events in history; and the historical narratives in the Bible are accurate and reliable."

That, he added is "bedrock, Baptist belief."

In the interview, he quoted an action from the 1922 annual meeting of the SBC, "when messengers adopted the Report of the Committee on the Report of the Education Board. In part, the report said, 'While calling for quality education we must not allow ourselves to become so absorbed in creating academic standards that we forget or ignore the main thing for which we entered... the field of education.'

"The report further stated, 'If... textbooks cannot be found which are not... destructive to the faith of the students in the inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible, the teachers in such departments should be of such pronounced faith in the Bible and of such learning in their departments as to be able to so explain the defect of the textbooks as to magnify the message of the Bible rather than discredit it.'"

Chapman added: "Clearly our forefathers, with great enthusiasm, envisioned staff and faculty in all departments of our Baptist colleges and seminaries as people who, first, profess faith in Jesus Christ as Savior

and Lord, and, second, who believe in the inspired, infallible, inerrant Word of God."

"I am not in position to determine the extent to which there may be those who may not believe in inerrancy and infallibility of God's Word (in the classrooms and institutions of the denomination). My best impression is that not all who serve within the context of Southern Baptist life have been willing to explicitly state that they believe in the perfect Word from the perfect God."

"I think that until there is an open and thorough declaration on the part of staff and faculty that they, in fact, do believe within the parameters stated by the Peace Committee, that a question would remain in the minds of many."

The Texas pastor commented the "conservative resurgence is still in progress and must continue if we expect to have an ongoing impact for Christ upon this world. Once we are more settled on the issue of the Bible, I expect us to become one of the most exploding forces for Christ across this land and around the world."

"I am extending open arms to all who believe that the Bible is perfect... desiring to draw together people and move beyond the present expressed polarization. All I can do is take the step, offer the open arms and trust God will move into the hearts of all of us to achieve the common goal of holding steadfast to our convictions about the Bible while broadening our togetherness."

Dan Martin is news editor for Baptist Press

Study says alcohol affects women more

A study published by the University of Pittsburgh says drink for drink, women get drunker than men. Scientists making the study say they believe it is because men have more stomach for booze.

The study said men feel few side effects of alcohol, even when men and women consume equal amounts. — ASSOCIATED PRESS

**KEEP
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'Conservatives' map strategy for presidential vote

ATLANTA (BP) — More than 250 conservatives from 21 states mapped strategy in Atlanta Feb. 22 for the election of Morris Chapman as next president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, recently announced his willingness to be nominated. John Bisagno, pastor of First Baptist Church of Houston, said he plans to nominate his fellow Texan as the "conservative" standard bearer.

The 256 "conservative" pastors and laypeople were invited to the meeting by Charles Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta and former president of the SBC.

Another former SBC president, Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., presided over the gathering; and current SBC President Jerry Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, gave greetings to participants over a telephone hookup.

"The meeting was to reaffirm our goals and directions," said Fred Powell, senior associate pastor of the Atlanta church and the organizer of the gathering.

"We wanted to assess the situation as to where we are and what we can expect in New Orleans," site of the 1990 annual meeting of the SBC, Rogers told Baptist Press.

"There were three basic things we feel we need to do," he added. "First, we need to refocus the issue on the Word of God. The central issue is the Bible. It is not a matter of separation of church and state, the priesthood of the believer, women ministers or

anything else, as important as they might be.

"The issue is... the theological issue, and the heart of the theological issue is Holy Scripture. We need to keep the focus on that, because there are those who are trying to shift the issue.

"The second thing is the duplicity of the 'moderates' (who are) crying out against political maneuvering and who are doing more and at greater expense than has ever been done."

He quoted a statement made by "moderate" candidate Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta, that politics is "immoral," and said: "There is talk of exorbitant amounts of money being spent... with flying around, whistle stops, organizations with paid full-time workers.

"I don't say they don't have the right to spend their money; the point is they are doing the very thing they decry so much. They can't have it both ways."

The third point of the meeting, Rogers said, "was that we talked about Morris Chapman and that he is indeed the one we felt was surfaced after prayer and discussion. Fred Wolfe was there and very much encouraged support for Morris as the candidate."

"Little rumors have been floating that Fred (Wolfe) was bypassed for Morris (Chapman). The 'moderates' would like to believe there is division in our camp, but assurance was given there is none."

Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., at first surfaced as the "conservative" candidate, but withdrew a few days before his

candidacy officially was to be announced.

Wolfe told Baptist Press he "spoke a word on behalf of Morris. He is God's man... and I think he will be the man to lead us."

The meeting, according to Wolfe, was "very positive. It did not deal in personalities. It was not a bash Dan Vestal meeting; it was an informative meeting for people involved in the 'conservative' movement."

Powell said the meeting "wasn't so much a pep rally for Morris (Chapman) as to keep our act straight, to keep on target."

Chapman was called a "thoroughbred conservative."

Chapman was called a "thoroughbred conservative" by Rogers, who urged participants to "get behind God's man." He predicted several prominent Southern Baptists from the "broad middle" will unite behind Chapman's candidacy.

"Some who have heretofore been in the middle of the road, but who have had 'conservative' beliefs, have made it known they are going to support Morris Chapman. Not the least of these is John Bisagno," Rogers said, predicting a "great number of people," similar to Bisagno "will do the same thing."

He declined to list possible sup-

porters because "we felt it would be better for them to surface their own names."

Rogers told the gathering, "I believe we will see in New Orleans the greatest victory ever seen" (for the "conservatives"), and added that another "conservative" victory — to go with 11 years of electing "conservative" presidents — will mean an end to the SBC conflict.

However, he added, "Conservatives realize they cannot take anything for granted and will do everything they can to have every messenger possible present in New Orleans."

James Hefley, a freelance writer from Hannibal, Mo., told the Word and Way, newsjournal of the Missouri Baptist Convention, Stanley announced to the gathering he will nominate Richard Lee, pastor of Rehoboth Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta for vice president. Hefley said several other names were discussed but, no candidate agreed on.

Hefley also said "conservative" leaders expressed concern about the announcement of Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler as "moderate" candidate for first vice president. He said fear was expressed she would attempt to establish a precinct type organization in each state through Woman's Missionary Union since she is the former executive director of the WMU SBC.

Leaders pledged to monitor WMU to make sure it is not used for political purposes, Hefley said.

In addition to Stanley, Rogers, Wolfe and Vines, the gathering also was addressed by Paul Pressler, a Houston appeals court judge and vice chair-

man of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

"The judge reported on the recent (Feb. 19-20) meeting of the Executive Committee and the actions taken regarding the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs," Rogers said.

During the meeting, the Executive Committee voted to shift the program assignment for religious liberty to the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission and to cut the budget allocation to the BJCPA from \$391,000 per year to \$50,000.

Also announced during the meeting, the Memphis pastor said, was establishment of a new publication, *The Southern Baptist Communicator*.

Powell, who will be editor of the publication as "a moonlighting thing," said the first issue has been mailed to the churches of the SBC. He said funding for the new publication is being provided by "an individual who feels that something should be done." He declined to name the "individual" without permission from the person.

The publication will have issues in April, May and June, Powell said, adding no decision has been made concerning its continuation past the 1990 annual meeting. "It will depend on what the need is," he added.

He added *The Southern Baptist Communicator* is not in competition with another "conservative" publication, the *Southern Baptist Advocate*, published by Robert M. Tenery of Morganton, N.C.

"I definitely applaud the work Bob Tenery has done, and this is in no way competitive. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John tell the story from different perspectives," he said.

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

Public school prayer

Editor:

In the Baptist Record last week there was a letter to you regarding the teaching of the theory of evolution in the public schools without recognition of the Bible account of creation, or creationism. I think most of us would agree with you that if one were taught, so should the other; but your preference was that both should be left outside the classroom study.

In your reply, if I understood you correctly, you related that in the school you attended during the 1930's and early 1940's, there was no Bible reading nor prayers said and that such things should be left to the home and the church. I was a student during that same period. Surely your school must have been the exception. In our school, and all others that I knew of, a passage from the Bible was read at each assembly, or chapel program; and someone led in prayer. Quite often, in a classroom discussion or at recess time, a teacher or a student would impose a quote from the Bible and express his or her faith in God.

Nobody preached to us, but there was a Christian atmosphere, and we knew that Christian principles were to be the standard of our conduct. These things fed tender hearts and minds and gave direction to our lives. Real-

ly, is there any education apart from cultural, moral, and spiritual values?

The idea that spiritual values can and should be fostered and taught only by the home and church is ludicrous. Many children don't have a Christian home. Neither are they carried to church and Sunday School. Actually, none of them have much home life, for they spend their time in school from day care to college. If they don't get some spiritual and moral food at school, they just don't get much. With all the home and the church can do, if the school does not build upon what they have done, it will surely tear it down. Thank God for teachers and schools that foster Christian principles and reverence.

R. Clifton Williams
Bogue Chitto

Cultural, moral, and spiritual values? Yes, though the school systems can no longer be sure they will find those in teachers. There can be no religious requirement in the hiring of public employees. A prayer led by a member of the Jehovah's Witnesses? No. But that would be a distinct possibility. In Utah for sure it would be a Mormon. Therefore, there should be no mandated prayers by Baptists in public schools, where religions of every sort are represented. And, it is true, I went to five different schools in my 11 years

of public school; and not once in 11 years was there a Bible reading time or a prayer. There was plenty of moral and cultural and even spiritual instruction, however; and in the two smaller systems, almost every teacher was a Baptist. They brought their witness to school, but they didn't bring their dogma. I am not against prayer in the public school, and neither is the U.S. Supreme Court. I am against an exercise that I wouldn't recognize as prayer being forced upon me in the name of prayer. And that has to work from all perspectives. And that is what the Supreme Court has ruled. — Editor

Be like Christ

Editor:

I would like to enlighten your readers about a book that I have just read. It is called *In His Steps* by Charles M. Sheldon.

This book is about a church in which the members pledged to live according to the teachings of Jesus for one year. In any and all situations they were to ask the question, "What would Jesus do?"

The church members' lives were drastically changed as they began to live as Jesus would. Their selfish, humanistic ways were changed as they strove to act as true Christians.

I have taken this question and applied it to all areas of my life. I have learned that what I would normally do is almost always different from what Jesus would do.

If the term, Christian, is to mean Christ-like, shouldn't we all really try to be like Christ?

Carolyn Coleman
Batesville

Guideposts ad

Editor:

I, too, was astounded at the opposition voiced about Guidepost. I will just say "Amen" to Mrs. J. H. Kennedy's letter complimenting this fine magazine and Dr. Peale.

Betty Terrell
Liberty

Hymnbooks needed

Editor:

There is a need for hymnbooks for churches that cannot afford to buy them.

If churches have used hymnals or would provide funds to buy them, please contact me or Brenda Box, 968-3800, Ext. 3961.

Richard Brogan,
consultant,
Cooperative Missions
Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board

Thanks for report

Editor:

Greetings to you today in CHRIST! Thank you, Brother Don, for reporting in the Record about Lottie Moon and the ordination of Brother Gayle Pope at Knights Valley Church.

I intended when I wrote about Brother Gayle Pope to list the phone numbers where he could be reached as a prospective pastor, interim pastor, pulpit supply, revivals, Bible studies, etc. I do want to share the three phone numbers where he can be reached. As time and policy allows, would you list these in the Record. Thank you so kindly!

Brother Gayle Pope can be reached at 956-1469, Jackson; 656-8817, Philadelphia; and/or 787-3528, Heidelberg.

Grady Crowell, director of missions
Clarke County Association

Divorced minister

Editor:

I do not understand why the divorced Baptist ministers are looked at by some of our church people as not being fit preachers to pastor our churches and preach God's word, when many times they are not at fault and are better preachers for the problems they have been through.

I believe God has called out and set apart these men as his servants. If that be right, the Lord will watch over them and love them; so why shouldn't we, as God's children, give them our support and love them so they can go on delivering his message that we so badly need to hear.

I believe we are very wrong to judge them. Let's leave that to God. He makes no mistakes.

Name withheld by editor

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Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



"Three cheers for the red, white, and blue"

While I waited three hours in Helsinki, Finland, for a plane to Moscow, I nervously filled the blanks on a USSR customs declaration. Four questions I could answer with "no." Have you any narcotics? any antiques or art? any Russian money? any weapons and ammunitions? The next two were harder: How much foreign money do you have? (it was embarrassingly little). How many bags do you have? One big bag and a small carry-on. (The touring company chose that inconvenient moment to give me a new carry-on case as a gift. Now what would I do with three bags when my declaration said two? I zipped my old carry-on inside my new one).

As I was to find, Russia is a land of opposites. For instance, their subway system is decorated with chandeliers and marble columns and probably the longest, highest escalators in the world. Their commuter planes, Aeroflot, are on the other end of the scale. Under the worn red carpet of the small airplane, I could feel depressions, rather like potholes, in the narrow aisle. There were no luggage compartments, only open shelves for coats or such. Seats were jammed close together, with hardly any knee room; carry-ons had to go under the seat or, more accurately, underfoot. Trying to get out of a seat, once settled, was an agony of tangled people. Gratefully I remembered I had read that more

upkeep is done on the engines than on the interior.

On my first day in Moscow, I visited the American Embassy. As I mentioned in an earlier column, I got left, accidentally, at the headquarters of the TASS news agency; and a Soviet writer delivered me and two others to the Embassy. He told us goodbye at the corner, beside an attractive grey stone building, the oldest in the Embassy complex. In front of the building, stretching down the sidewalk, and filling every inch of the small courtyard, stood lines of people. "You go on up to the door," the newsman told us, "You don't have to get at end of line." These were Russian people, each waiting to apply for a visa to enter the United States. Sometimes they waited from early morning until late afternoon, returned and waited another day, and sometimes for days and days. The American flag waving above the front door to them symbolized something they dreamed some day of finding, something worth waiting for, any length of time.

Three friendly American men (Embassy personnel) behind a glass window (bullet proof?) in the entranceway did not open the door and say "Come in." They looked at our passports and drivers' licenses, conferred a while, and took our purses and cameras before they let us go through a turnstile like those at the

Jackson zoo, into the building for only a few moments to visit the ladies' room.

There is a newer section of the Embassy, a red brick building, never finished after bugging devices were discovered in it. In an office there, while waiting to telephone, I noticed that some jokester had placed a sign in an open drawer, "Do not close drawer. Open to receive incoming taxes."

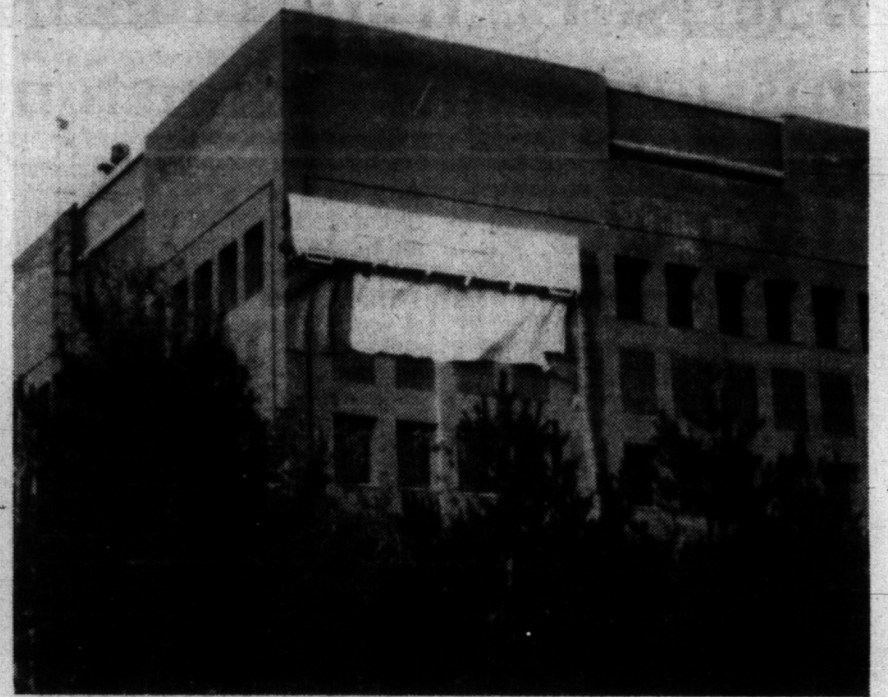
Michael Hurley from Seattle, second secretary of the Embassy, a professional ambassador with the Division of Press and Culture, told us that as part of the Embassy personnel he is not supposed to have private social Russian friends. He said that Phyllis Kirk, an American woman, a lawyer, has been allowed to live in Lenin Hills, a residential sector of Moscow. So far as she and the Embassy know, she is the only American living in Moscow outside the Embassy compound. Before glasnost, this would have been impossible, he said.

One morning Kirk, who is with the American Trade Development seeking to create an economic infrastructure in Russia, spoke to us during breakfast at the Kosmos Hotel. She said, "Here this economic structure is either sabotaged, or a mystery. You take home a TV set, and it explodes . . . Here the medical care is free, but it is unavailable."

Ready to leave for home, at the Len-

Thursday, March 8, 1990

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9



The new American Embassy in Moscow has not yet been finished because of the discovery of electronic spying devices in the construction.

ingrad airport, past the security checkpoint, Sarah Peugh, Aberdeen Baptist, and I sat, waiting again for a plane. She held out her hand, tears in her eyes, and said, "See my new ring?" She had just received it as a gift from a Jewish family she had met there in the airport.

That Jewish family of four had longed to live in America. It had been ten years since first they applied for a visa, and for permission to leave the USSR. Now they were being sent by way of Budapest and Vienna to Rome. From there, they hoped to find a way to realize their dream. Their mother stood on the other side of the checkpoint, without permission to follow further. They kept going back to talk with her across the barrier, for they

knew they might never see her again. To them, their dream was that strong.

They wanted some U.S. currency, in case they needed it, and Sarah, ever thinking of others with loving concern, had bought a samovar (used to make tea) from them, and paid them in U.S. money. One of the women then had given her the ring and said to her, "My mother told me to give this to the first good person I met on this side of the barrier."

For many years I have sat at my desk where I could turn and look out any time at the United States flag flying, in front of the Mississippi Capitol. I ask myself now, "How often have I taken for granted the splendors for which it stands?"

Popes lead retreat for volunteer teachers in China

A door in China that is wide open is that of teaching English to Chinese students attending the country's many universities. Southern Baptists are now providing 65 teachers in more than a dozen universities, under sponsorship of Cooperative Services International, department of the Foreign Mission Board, SBC.

Where career missionaries are unable to live and work, CSI seeks to match Southern Baptist professionals with various overseas needs. These include English teachers, health care professionals, agriculturists, and others. Headquarters for CSI work in China is in Hong Kong.

Two Mississippians recently met with the 65 teachers in a retreat setting in Hong Kong and heard firsthand of their experience of teaching and planting of seeds of Jesus Christ by their actions and their conversations with Chinese students. Bradley and Jo Ann Pope traveled to Hong Kong and took a one-day journey to Guangzhou (Canton) to visit one of the former Southern Baptist churches that has been open for 11 years, the Dong Shan Church. The church has four Chinese pastors and a seminary with 35 students.

Pope, staff counselor at The Shepherd's Staff Counseling Center in Jackson, led a five-day retreat for the 65 Southern Baptist teachers. He says, "Many of these people have left the conveniences of nice comfortable homes to live in austere accommodations. Many have families at home that have experienced death and illness, and they have not been able to

visit. Some have experienced illnesses themselves without access to modern medical services. But they are committed to being where God can use them as his presence and his spokesmen. I admire them greatly."

Pope observed, "Since the days of Lottie Moon, China has been on the minds and hearts of Southern Baptists. We watched with horror as the Red Guards of the Cultural Revolution in 1966 finished closing all the churches and sent home all remaining foreigners. All of our years of investment in the lives of the Chinese people seemed to be going down the drain.

"However, since 1976 and the death of Mao, many exciting things have been happening to the Christian people and Christian churches of China.

The government has taken a new stand concerning the existence of evangelical Christian churches — a much more tolerant stance. The Christians who had been meeting in homes for worship have been allowed to reopen their churches in increasing numbers.

"In the past 10 years, 6,000 churches have reopened. However, the various denominations, such as Southern Baptists, do not own the buildings nor direct the ministry of the churches — the Chinese themselves do. Southern Baptists and other evangelicals have chosen to relate to the Chinese Christian church in another capacity — as co-workers. We have chosen to work alongside these Chinese churches to meet needs in ways that they indicate."



Dong Shan Baptist Church, Canton, China.

Gulfshore Schedule 1990

May 21-23	I Senior Adult Conference (DT)
May 24-26	II Senior Adult Conference (DT)
May 26-28	Single Adult Conference (DT)
May 28-June 1	III Senior Adult Conference (DT)
June 1-5	I Youth Conference MCB
June 5-9	II Youth Conference MCB
June 9-13	III Youth Conference MCB
June 14-18	IV Youth Conference MCB
June 18-22	V Youth Conference MCB
June 22-26	VI Youth Conference MCB
June 26-30	VII Youth Conference MCB
July 2-6	Family Enrichment Conference (DT)
July 7-11	Young Musicians Conference (CM)
July 12-14	Discipleship Training Leadership Conference (DT)
	Church Recreation Conference (DT)
July 14-18	Youth Music Conference (CM)
July 19-21	Music Leadership Conference (CM)
July 21-26	I Centrifuge
July 26-28	Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Conference (CAPM)
	Church Weekday Education Conference (CAPM)
	Stewardship Conference (STEW)
	Church Missions Development Conference (CoMi)
July 28-August 2	II Centrifuge
August 2-4	I Sunday School Leadership Conference (SS)
	Special Ministries Conference (SS)
August 4-9	III Centrifuge
August 9-11	II Sunday School Leadership Conference (SS)
August 11-16	IV Centrifuge
September 7-8	III Sunday School Leadership Conference (SS)
September 14-15	IV Sunday School Leadership Conference (SS)

For further information contact Frank Simmons, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, MS 39571; phone 601/452-7261. For Centrifuge information and reservations, call 615/251-2713 or write CENTRIFUGE, P. O. Box 24001, Nashville, TN 37202.

BSU of USM to sponsor mission trip to Houston

The Baptist Student Union of the University of Southern Mississippi will be sponsoring a mission trip to Houston over spring break, March 9-16.

The group will do inner city work with missionary Mildred McWhorter. Their duties will include leading a Backyard Bible Club, doing construction work, painting, serving in a soup kitchen, and doing health screening.

The group will include Shannon Varnado, Natchez; Joy Vaughn, Durant; Tina Williams, Pascagoula; Chris Dufrene, New Hebron; Donnie Reynolds, Picayune; Darren Miley, Crystal Springs; Rhonda Hensarling, Petal; Cindy Rachel, Gretna, La.; Tony Bernard, Denham Springs, La.; Darla Kling, BSU intern on the coast campus; Marilyn Sullivan, New Orleans campus nursing instructor; Frank Bowers, BSU director, Hattiesburg campus; and three nursing students from the New Orleans campus.

A leadership training conference will take place March 16-17 at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, featuring specialized training for leaders in all areas of Sunday School.

Training will be included for leaders of younger and middle preschoolers, older preschoolers, middle children, older children, youth, adults, for adult department directors, for Sunday School directors, for pastors and staffers, and for outreach leaders.

Bible study leader will be Gene Henderson, pastor of First Church, Brandon. Music leader will be Rick Greene of Jackson.

Registration on March 16 begins at 3 p.m. with dinner at 5 and sessions beginning at 6. The conference concludes at noon the next day.

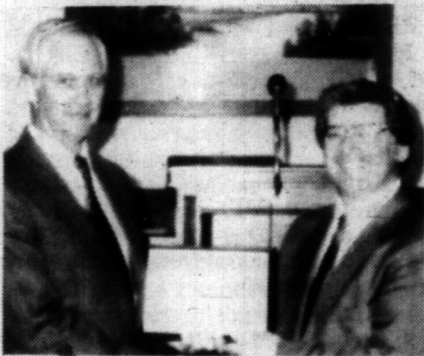
To register for the conference, contact Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, Henderson Point, MS 39571. Cost is \$31 for lodging and food.

The conference is sponsored by the MBCB's Sunday School Department.

Names in the news



First Church, Union, had a special recognition day for Lester and Melba White on Feb. 11. Mrs. White has served as church organist or pianist for over 50 years. Mr. White served as volunteer music director off and on for 25 years. Graham Smith (right) director, Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, presented a special certificate of appreciation to the Whites.



Nathan M. Ziegler, left, was licensed to the gospel ministry by Puckett Church, Puckett, on Sunday, Feb. 18. He is available for pulpit supply and speaking engagements. Ziegler can be contacted at Rt. 1, Box 93 A, Mendenhall, MS 39114 or by phone at 825-6027. Alvin C. Doyle, pastor, is also pictured.

William Carey College professor Hugh Barlow did an exhibition-lecture of his recent paintings and drawings at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind. He, along with one other person from the U.S.A., was selected for exhibition of his work at the "Young American Artists Exhibition" during the current academic year in Munich, Germany. He also exhibited in a two-man show in Denmark scheduled to tour seven countries.

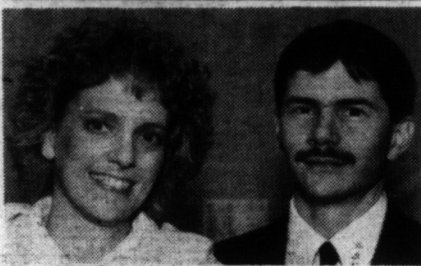
Mississippi alumni of Southern Seminary, have elected Stephen A. Odom of Hattiesburg as president of the state alumni association. Odom, who is pastor of University Church, Hattiesburg, will serve as a member of the seminary's Alumni Advisory Council.

An ordination service was held at Bethlehem Church in Yazoo County, March 4. The deacon candidates were Thomas King and Herbert Jones. John Scholar is pastor.



Lizana Church, Gulf Coast Association, ordained Robert O. "Red" Bowen to the gospel ministry on Oct. 8. Left to right, are Bobby G. Perry, director of missions, Gulf Coast Association, who brought the message; Bowen; and Gerald H. Walker, pastor of Lizana Church. Robert "Red" Bowen was ordained at the request of Friendship Church, Biloxi.

Staff changes



Gary and Jeanne Canfield

Gary D. Canfield has been called as minister of music and youth at East End Church, Columbus. His wife, Jeanne, is serving as church pianist. Canfield graduated from Southwestern Seminary in December.

David O. Briscoe has been called as pastor to Pelahatchie Church, Rankin Association, effective Feb. 21. His previous place of service was New Palestine Church, Picayune. He received his education at William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary.



Briscoe

Donald Riley has recently accepted the pastorate at Lebanon Church, Covington Association. His last pastoral duties were at Horseshoe Church in Holmes County.

Grammer retires from pastorate

Kermit C. Grammer of Fayette is retiring from full-time pastoral work, on advice of his doctors, following a heart attack and open heart surgery.

Grammer has been a bivocational pastor for 24 years in the Adams-Union Association. For 11½ years he was pastor of Unity Church in Union Association. Twice he has served as moderator in Union Association. Other pastorates have included Fellowship, Breil Avenue, Red Lick, and Grand Gulf Mission.

Grammer said that he will still be available for supply or interim work and may be reached at Rt. 1, Box 122, Fayette, MS 39069 (phone 601-786-3355).

Revival dates

Dorsey, Mantachie (Itawamba): Mar. 11-15; 7 p.m.; Rick Spencer, director of missions, Itawamba Association, evangelist; Jerry Estes, pastor.

Noxapater (Winston): Mar. 18-21; services, Sunday, regular time; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; George Jackson, Egypt Road, Memphis, evangelist; Doug Hubbard, Noxapater (Winston) music; Wayne Sanders, pastor.

Antioch, Golden (Itawamba): Mar. 11-14; 7 p.m.; Charles Thorn, North Russellville Church, Russellville, Ala., evangelist; Grady Oliver, pastor.

Woodland, Pontotoc: Mar. 18-21; 7 p.m.; Ray Burks, Oak Hill Church, Booneville, evangelist; Angie Camp, Woodland Church, Tupelo, music; Randy W. Kolb, pastor.

Homecomings

Wildwood, Tupelo: March 18; 11 a.m.; R. J. Wilemon, Tupelo, guest speaker; "Heaven Bound" from Kinston, N.C., guest singers; covered dish in fellowship hall at noon; 1:30 p.m. singing; no night services; Don Sparks, pastor.

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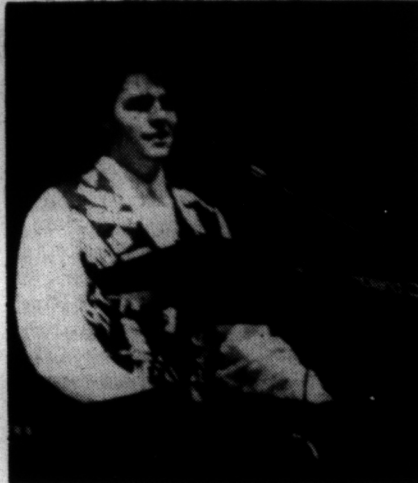
*An average 1800 churches a year in the U.S. burned from 1983-87 according to statistics from the National Fire Protection Association.

Just for the Record



BSU at Clarke College sponsored a Valentine banquet for students, faculty, staff, and guests. Following the banquet, Stacy Andrews, pictured at right, contemporary Christian singer and member of the Mississippi College group, The Naturals, presented a concert.

Pictured at table are Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Costilow and students, Connie Marshall, Tammy Bounds, and Chris Adcock.



Nathan Barber Jr., of Bay St. Louis and a student at William Carey College, has been awarded the United Parcel Service presidential scholarship. Barber, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Barber Sr. is a member of First Church, Bay St. Louis. At Carey College, he is a freshman pre-law/humanities major and an active member of the BSU and the Crusader yearbook staff.

Barber is a 1989 honor graduate of Bay St. Louis High School and while in school he was captain of the Quiz Bowl Team.

James Shivers, associate professor of Economics and Business Administration at William Carey College, recently presented three mini-lectures and served as economic consultant of Free Enterprise Games which was held at the Coca-Cola complex.

The event was sponsored by the Mississippi Economics Council and Chevron, U.S.A. Approximately 225 students from 30 area high schools were represented.

Hebron Church in Yazoo Association honored its senior deacons, Feb. 4. Plaques of appreciation were presented to the men and corsages were given to their wives. Those honored were C. D. Hilderbrand Sr., in whose behalf a memorial plaque was presented to his wife, Ada Mae Hilderbrand; Basil Hilderbrand, 83, his wife, Ruth; Manley High, 81, his wife, Bera; and W. O. Hilderbrand Sr., a member of Hebron Church for more than 70 years. Their favorite hymns were sung and a covered dish supper was served afterwards. Bill Hutto is pastor.



First Church, Moss Point, began a week of "Focus on WMU" with a WMU parade of history, Feb. 11. Members of WMU, dressed in fashions of each decade, gave a brief statement of history for the decade she represented.

Pictured are Beth Willis, representing the years before 1888; Carolyn Holland, 1890s; Mary Jane James, 1900s; Joy Pater, 1910s; Pam Perkins, 1920s; Jan DeLashmet, 1930s; Rene Renfro, 1940s; Marty Perkins, 1950s; Carolyn Young, 1960s; Wendy Hardin, 1970s; Becky Waltman, 1980s; and June Fairley, WMU director, Adrian Pater is pastor.



Representatives from WTZH, channel 24, Meridian, and the Meridian Star visited Clarke College campus, Feb. 8. The day's activities included interviews with several team members and Coach Steve Renfrow. A short TV spot was prepared to be aired at a later time.

The Panthers will come off a 23-23 season in 1989, which set a school record for wins. Clarke is a member of the Region 23 Independent Conference and will host the conference tournament in 1990, at Mississippi College.

Mississippi Baptist activities

- Mar. 11 Home Missions Day in Sunday School (SS Emphasis)
- Mar. 13 Senior Adult Leadership and Enrichment Day; FBC, Lucedale/FBC, Hazlehurst/Temple BC, Hattiesburg; 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (DT)
- Mar. 16-17 State Keyboard Seminar; FBC, Jackson; Noon, 16th-Noon, 17th (CM)
- Mar. 16-17 Gulfshore South Sunday School Conference; Gulfshore Assembly; 5 p.m., 16th-2:30 p.m. 17th (SS)



Pictured is Ron Gilstrap, pastor, Calvary Church, Newton, as he visits and counsels ministerial students on the Clarke College campus.



Perfect Heart is a group of Christian women organized for the presentation of contemporary and southern gospel music. They are members of Macedonia Church, Petal, and are available for special services, homecomings, and revivals. For more information, contact Robert Bolling, 583-9706, or Nancy Hullum, 544-4027. Pictured, l. - r., are Nancy Hullum, Jean Young, Jackie Rainey, Jenise Jenkins, Jan Graham, and Andrea Hullum.

Eastport Church, Iuka, is sponsoring "Youth Rally '90", March 17, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Activities planned include special music, testimonies, and workshops on drugs, AIDS, sex, and peer pressure.

Hot dogs and beans will be served, as well as snack breaks of homemade cookies.

For more information call Mrs. Carl (Terri Jo) Booker, 423-2069, youth director; Mrs. Dan (Shirley) Whited, 423-6347; or Mike Duff, pastor, 423-3217

Revival results

First, Richland (Rankin): Feb. 18-21; Leonard Sanderson, Pineville, La., preaching; Jim Lott, Pearl, music; eight professions of faith; five rededications; and five by letter; Allen H. Stephens, pastor.

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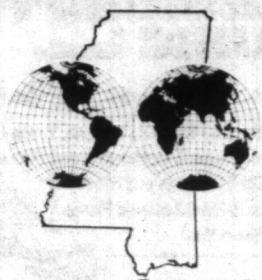
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Evangelism Report



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Churches Reporting	Gospel Presentations	Number of Conversions
Adams		
Alcorn	2	12
Attala		9
Benton		
Bolivar		
Calhoun	12	33
Carroll		2
Chickasaw		
Choctaw	1	60
Clarke		29
Clay		
Copiah		
Covington	1	5
Franklin	17	0
George		
Greene		
Grenada		
Gulfcoast		
Hinds-Madison	1	2
Holmes		0
Humphreys		
Itawamba		
Jackson	14	12
Jasper		10
Jeff Davis		
Jones		
Kemper		
Lafayette	5	25
Lamar		23
Lauderdale	1	12
Lawrence		3
Leake		
Lebanon	6	905
Lee		26
Leflore		
Lincoln		
Lowndes	1	10
Marion		7
Marshall	4	20
Mississippi		7
Monroe		
Montgomery		
Neshoba		
New Choctaw		
Newton		
North Delta		
Northwest	1	29
Noxubee		2
Oktibbeha	1	4
Panola	3	0
Pearl River	3	3
Perry	1	12
Pike		12
Pontotoc		
Prentiss		
Rankin		
Scott		
Sharkey-Issaquena		
Simpson		
Smith		
Sunflower	2	2
Tallahatchie		2
Tippah		
Tishomingo		
Union		
Union Co.		
Walthall		
Warren		
Washington		
Wayne		
Webster		
Winston		
Yalobusha	5	18
Yazoo		4

Myers to speak for BNF dinner

The fourth annual fellowship dinner for Mississippi Chapter of Baptist Nursing Fellowship will be held Monday, March 26, at 5:30 p.m. in the Applegate Building at First Church, Starkville. To order tickets, \$4.50 per person, contact the WMU office, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Deadline for reservations is March 23.



Myers

Lewis Myers, director, Cooperative Services International, Foreign Mission Board, will be the main speaker. Marjorie McCullough, president, WMU, SBC, will be a special guest at the dinner.

There will be a reserved section in the auditorium for those at the dinner who remain for the 7 p.m. session of the WMU annual meeting.

Overl Oglesbee, former pastor, dies

Overl Oglesbee of Biloxi, 71, died Feb. 9 in Gulfport. Oglesbee, a native of Columbia, was former pastor of Trinity Church, Biloxi, and pastor emeritus of Oakcrest Church in Pensacola, Fla. He retired in 1983 from the active pastorate. He was a member of the DAV and First Church, Biloxi.

Survivors include his wife, Pearl; two daughters, Kaye Keener of Atlanta and Carol Rickman of Biloxi; two sisters; one brother; two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Services were held Feb. 12 in Biloxi, and graveside services were held in Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia.

Hardin-Simmons gets check for \$2 million

ABILENE, Texas (BP) — Hardin-Simmons University has received a check for almost \$2 million to help construct a building for its business school.

Charles B. Johnson of San Mateo, Calif., gave the Texas Baptist school a check for \$1,975,000 to help finance construction of the Albert W. and Mary E. Johnson Building for the HSU School of Business.

Charles Johnson is a son and executor of the estate of the late Rupert H. Johnson, the son of Albert and Mary Johnson. Rupert Johnson pledged \$2,250,000 for the business building before his death.

HSU President Jesse C. Fletcher said the contribution was the largest check ever to arrive at his office on the Hardin-Simmons campus in Abilene.

The Johnson Building is expected to be completed in late summer and ready for occupancy this fall, he added.

The Johnson contribution brings gifts and pledges for HSU's \$15 million Centennial Campaign to \$11,985,000. The campaign is to continue through 1991, the school's 100th anniversary.

The world is full of people who are willing to serve in an advisory capacity.

Modesty — the art of encouraging others to find out for themselves how important you are — (Pivot)

Awards banquet for broadcasters will feature Mike Huckabee

Mike Huckabee will be the keynote speaker for the Mississippi Baptists in Broadcasting Awards Banquet to be held on April 27, at 7 p.m., at Calvary Church, Jackson.



Huckabee

As pastor of Beech Street First Baptist Church, Texarkana, Ark., he helped launch TV-36, a 24-hour-a-day ACTS channel operated by the church.

The church received the "Eagle Award" from the Baptist Sunday School Board in 1988, for recognition of increased enrollment and attendance in Sunday School. Since 1986, average S.S. attendance has increased from 520 to more than 750. The church leads the association in Cooperative Program giving with 19½ percent of the budget going to the Cooperative Program.

Huckabee has received two national ACTS awards. One was for producing and hosting a television talk show, "Positive Alternatives," and the other was for his leadership of "ACTS of

Arkansas," of which he has served as president since 1985. He also hosted a radio program and wrote a weekly newspaper column, both called "Positive Alternatives."

The Mississippi Baptists in Broadcasting meeting has been expanded this year to a weekend format with the awards banquet and video festival on Friday evening. The Mississippi ACTS Affiliates meeting is scheduled Saturday, April 28 from 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

This annual meeting for church people involved in radio and television seeks to fulfill the purpose of fellowship, inspiration, recognition, support, and training.

Local churches who submit radio or television entries in various categories will be recognized on April 27. These categories for radio and television are Best Programs in Missions/Evangelism; Church Musicals, Human Interest, Community Service/Sports; Best Sport; and Most Creative Use of Radio and T.V. The deadline for the entries to be in is March 15.

The awards banquet and the Saturday luncheon are provided as a part of the \$15 per person registration fee.

Contact Farrell Blankenship, Department of Broadcast Services, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530 for detailed information.

Mother/daughter seminar will be held at MBMC

A mother/daughter seminar designed to help daughters explore the beauty and wonder of becoming women, will be held at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, April 1, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. for 13 to 17 year olds, and May 6, for 9 to 12 year olds at the same time.

The purpose is to provide an atmosphere of love and learning and to establish a foundation for respect and

continued communication between parent and child. The physical and emotional changes, the virtue of chastity and healthy dating relationships are among the topics to be discussed. The speakers will be MBMC physicians, nurses, and natural family planning instructors. Call 968-1712 to register or to receive more information. The cost is \$8 per family.

Elderhostel weeks are set at five sites in state

Mississippians over the age of 60 are invited to take part in study programs featuring literature, the state's natural history, native American culture, and regional arts, during eight ELDERHOSTEL weeks to be held at five different sites in the state during April-June.

Choose either April 1-7 or June 3-9 at Gulfside United Methodist Assembly, retreat center on the Gulf of Mexico at Waveland where Southern, Creole, and Cajun cultures influence the food, and participants will study the religion of Islam, the culture of the Philippines, and experience the pleasures of language and art forms in the Psalms.

At Meridian Community College, Elderhostelers will explore the cultural history of country music by studying about Jimmie Rodgers, during the week of May 20-26. Participants will also attend the local festival commemorating Rodgers.

Both Meridian Community College and Mississippi College will include a study of the history and culture of the Choctaw Indians, with a field trip to the Choctaw Reservation.

Mississippi College will host a program week April 1-6 at Roosevelt State Park, where a field study of

Mississippi wildlife is to be coordinated by the staff of Bureau of Recreation and Parks with emphasis on birding to be led by Ernest Turcotte, internationally known ornithologist.

Mississippi State University Elderhostelers will discover the key themes expressed in Greek mythology and classic literature.

Elderhostelers will choose from three program weeks scheduled at Seashore United Methodist Assembly: April 8-14, April 29-May 5; and May 6-12. Courses will change each week, but include such subjects as Southern literature, the history of the Biloxi schooner and its impact on the seafood industry, and spring birding on the coast.

Although ELDERHOSTEL is primarily a residential study program, up to ten commuters may be accepted in each program week on a space-available basis. ELDERHOSTEL catalogs may be seen at a local library; or for further information, contact Mrs. Dorothy Carpenter, Mississippi Elderhostel Director, Box 4185, Mississippi College, Clinton, MS 39058; or write to ELDERHOSTEL, 80 Boylston Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02116.

MasterLife workshop planned

A MasterLife workshop will take place May 7-11 at 38th Avenue Church in Hattiesburg.

The workshop is a five-day overview to prepare participants to lead a MasterLife group in the local church. The workshop also helps in evaluating one's own discipleship.

MasterLife is a 26-week course designed to help a church member become a committed disciple of Christ. It includes scripture memorization, daily Bible study, and learning to share one's Christian faith.

Larry Goff, pastor of Edon Church, Stringer, and Rick Mitchell, pastor of

Hickory Church, Hickory, will be leaders for the workshop. Facilitators include John Sharp of Sebastopol, Frank Rice of Brooklyn, and John Hilbun of Soso.

A registration fee of \$82.50 covers the cost of materials for the workshop. Participation in a workshop leads to certification as a leader. Included are leadership materials for conducting the course by a certified leader. Lodging and meals are extra.

To register, write Mose Dangerfield, Discipleship Training Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

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Virginia Baptists meet SBC liaison committee

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE (BP) — Virginia Baptists and members of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee liaison committee met for more than four hours Feb. 19 before deciding another meeting is needed to further discuss issues of concern.

The dialogue session stemmed from a "Memorial from the Messengers of the 1988 Baptist General Association of Virginia to the Messengers of the 1989 Southern Baptist Convention," which expressed five issues for SBC consideration and response.

During the 1989 annual meeting of the SBC, the memorial was referred to the Executive Committee, which established an eight-member liaison committee to receive "any and all such communications for consideration . . ."

In its September 1989 meeting, the liaison committee adopted a statement, prepared by its chairman, Julian Motley, pastor of Gorman Baptist Church in Durham, N.C., which set out parameters of its work, but did not, during that meeting, meet with the Virginia representatives.

In the February meeting, the 10 members of the Virginia denominational crisis committee, plus two state denominational workers, met with the eight-member liaison committee to discuss the five points of concern, as well as the parameters established by the liaison committee in September.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Motley reported to the Executive Committee: "The committee engaged in substantial dialogue in an open, forthright and conciliatory atmosphere and shared mutual expressions of appreciation at the close of the meeting for the spirit and manner in which the discussions were held."

"It was the consensus of the joint group that further dialogue should be scheduled and plans were initiated to arrange another meeting . . . The liaison committee, in a subsequent meeting, took steps toward the preparation of a substantive response to the issues raised . . ."

"The committee feels that significant progress was made in this first joint session with the Virginia committee and is fully committed to continuing the dialogue."

Neal Jones, pastor of Columbia Baptist Church in Falls Church, Va., and chairman of the Virginia committee, thanked the liaison committee and the Executive Committee "for helping us carry our concerns to the Southern Baptist Convention."

"You received us graciously . . . and raised our expectations. We urge you to add tangible evidence to our expectations," Jones said. "The liaison committee has our report in hand. We have sought to be straightforward, succinct and courteous. Please consider our concerns with an eye to the future as well as faithfulness to our heritage."

After polling the members of the two committees, the two groups will convene another dialogue session either May 14-15 in Nashville, or immediately prior to the 1990 annual meeting of the SBC, on June 9, in New Orleans.

Although the members of the liaison committee considered the dialogue session to be conducted under the background rules of the Executive Committee, which prevent quotation or direct attribution, members of the Virginia delegation wanted their remarks to be open and

on the record and gave Baptist Press permission to quote freely from their part of the discussion.

In the discussion, Jones read a paper that set forth the Virginia Baptists' position, and noted: "We come as official representatives of the BGAV. Our mandate from the BGAV was voted by an overwhelming majority in the 1988 annual meeting . . ."

"The overarching reason for sending the memorial to the SBC was to present formally and straightforwardly some concerns which are negatively affecting the success of the Cooperative Program."

"This is what we desire," he said. "First, direct, mutual consultations regarding a range of issues that are affecting our joint efforts . . . in cooperative ministries," and, second, the assistance of the SBC liaison committee to develop and initiate appropriate recommendations to the SBC Executive Committee and the Southern Baptist Convention which will address these concerns."

He added: "Important as the current issues are, we want to put forth another significant dimension of our joint deliberations. We want to search for solutions that will look to the future . . . Our committee believes that the time is right to examine and adjust some of our approaches and methods in order to forge a new consensus that will propel us into a new advance of cooperative missions and evangelism."

In the paper, Jones listed the five issues of concern to Virginia Baptists. They are:

— "The maintenance of our historic relationship with the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs."

— "The possibility of allowing some form of flexibility whereby a church may, on conscience grounds, choose to omit from its Cooperative Program (the SBC unified giving plan) gifts selected SBC budget items through a carefully developed plan."

— "The continuation of quality theological education at our seminaries."

— "The appointment of persons nominated by the BGAV as Virginia members of the SBC Committee on Committees."

— "The development of a new style of relating based on the partnership principle."

In the paper, Jones also spelled out six "principles which we believe are foundational to our cooperative relationship." They are:

— Autonomy. "Baptist bodies are self-governing under the Lordship of Christ."

— Voluntary connectionalism. "Voluntary connectionalism is God's glue by which we are joined with others of like faith and order and like commitment in missionary enterprise called the SBC. Voluntary connectionalism should not be confused with presbyterial polity. Without connectionalism, Baptists would be strict independents."

— Freedom of dissent within the embrace of fellowship. "A proper balance between freedom and cooperation is necessary for the continuation of Baptist life. If uniformity replaces liberty as the basis of cooperation, our identity as Baptists will be jeopardized."

— Representative participation. "Mutuality exists between and among Baptist bodies. The principle of autonomy must be balanced

alongside the principle of mutuality and interdependence."

— Mutual consultation. "An intentional communication about plans, programs and cooperative ministries is related to assure widespread grassroots ownership and participation."

— Mutual accountability. "An intentional communication between partners helps each partner evaluate its progress toward achieving mutual expectations, goals and objectives. The purpose of mutual accountability is to foster better performance by all of the partners."

Jones told the liaison committee the Virginians "record our intention to fulfill our assignment from the BGAV to voice these concerns to all Southern Baptists."

The Virginia Baptists were told the SBC liaison committee intended to enter into dialogue with those who, like Virginia, had concerns, but it had adopted parameters which, while not intended to limit free discussion, had limited the committee response to cooperative ministries that relate to the Cooperative Program.

While the SBC committee apparently feels the funding of the BJC, theological education and the presidential appointment of state representatives to the Committee on Committees was outside the parameters, Jones said Virginians believe all of the five issues have a direct impact on Cooperative Program giving.

However, when the groups meet again, each of the five concerns listed by the BGAV in its memorial will be addressed.

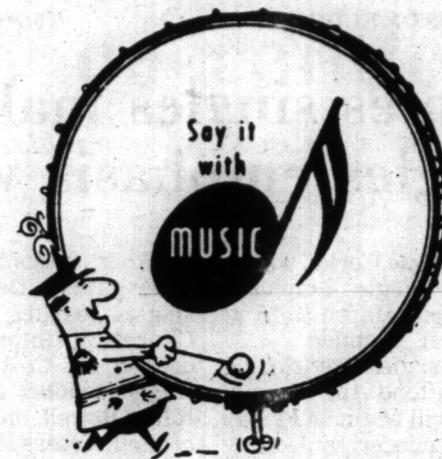
One big item left unaddressed, according to James Slatton, pastor of River Road Baptist Church in Richmond, is the issue of presenting the concerns directly to messengers of the SBC.

"One of the things this (liaison) committee could do would be to recommend that the convention hear us outright," he said, pointing out the memorial was addressed from the messengers of Virginia to the messengers of the SBC.

"This committee has listened to us. We will look to see what you choose to do as to whether you heard us," he added.

Jones likened the meeting to a football kickoff. "We are waiting for the other team to respond," he said.

Martin writes for BP.



Preregistration 'booming' for 1991 PraiSing II

NASHVILLE — Preregistration is "booming" for PraiSing II since the Sunday School Board began accepting reservations Feb. 1.

In the first two weeks of preregistration, more than 500 persons have submitted registration forms, and almost 650 of the 1,400 rooms reserved at Nashville's Opryland Hotel have been reserved for the March 11-14, 1991, event.

The four-day worship and praise celebration marks the sponsoring church music department's 50th anniversary, the board's 100th anniversary, and the release of *The Baptist Hymnal*.

A similar celebration in Nashville launched the *Baptist Hymnal*, 1975 edition.

Bill Leach, chairman of the PraiSing II registration committee, said evening celebrations will be presented in two performances limited to 4,400 registrants each.

"We're not planning to oversell the seating capacity of the Opry House," Leach said. "If we sell out the house, we will sell tickets only as we have cancellations."

He said tickets for individual evening programs will not be offered prior to March 11. Tickets, if available, may be obtained at the information center in Opryland Hotel or at the Opry House the week of the event.

Simultaneous concerts will be offered four times daily at First Baptist Church downtown; First Baptist Church of Donelson; Belmont Heights Baptist Church; Woodmont Baptist Church; the Tennessee Ballroom of the Opryland Hotel; and Van Ness Auditorium at the Sunday School Board on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Additional noontime concerts are planned at McKendree Methodist Church, Trevecca College, Belmont College, Church Street Centre, and the Magnolia Lobby at

Opryland Hotel.

Tuesday at the Opryland Hotel will feature 23 Southern Baptist handbell choirs. A mass handbell choir will ring at the Monday and Thursday evening celebrations.

Beginning Wednesday at Tw Rivers Baptist Church, across from Opryland Hotel, vocal ensembles and choirs will participate in a marathon sing-through-the-hymnal event.

Evening celebrations, beginning on Monday, will offer a variety in worship and praise.

Contemporary Gospel Music Night with Jerry Clower, Bill Walker, James D. Woodward, Karla Worley, and the SBC PraiSingers will begin PraiSing II.

Tuesday, Christine Anderson, Warren Angell, Cynthia Clawson, Ragae Courtney, Beryl Red and The Centurymen will lead in Southern Baptist Musical Heritage Night.

Concert music will be featured Wednesday, with Henrietta Davis David Ford, Hugh McElrath, Stephen Nielson, James McKinney, Hugh San ers, Ovid Young, and the Southern Baptist seminary choirs.

Thursday night will be the premiere for *The Baptist Hymnal*, with Wesley Forbis, Max Lyall, Camp Kirkland, A Travis, the SBC PraiSingers, and state Baptist singing groups. Every paid registrant who attends the Thursday evening event will receive a souvenir edition of the new hymnal.

Cost for the week is \$50, including all concerts and celebration services. Nightly tickets, if available, will be \$1 for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Cost for Thursday night's celebration will be \$20. Preregistrants will receive information on hotel accommodation and directions along with a registration confirmation. Checks, payable to Baptist Sunday School Board, should be sent to P. O. Box 24001, Nashville, TN 37203.

Church starts top '89 bold goal

LOS ANGELES (BP) — Southern Baptists started 842 congregations in the United States and Puerto Rico in 1988-89, thrusting the total number of their congregations above the 1989 goal set for the Bold Mission Thrust campaign. Mississippi Baptists started 15.

The statistics on church starting for the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, 1989, were released during a national church extension leadership training conference sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Figures were compiled by the board's extension section using reports from state directors of missions.

Bold Mission Thrust is the denomination's effort to present the

gospel to every person on earth by the year 2000. The emphasis calls for 50,000 Southern Baptist churches and missions by that year.

The 842 new congregations reported by state missions directors brings the total number of SBC congregations to 42,735. That is 69 more than the Bold Mission Thrust goal of 42,666 set for 1988-89.

However, the 842 starts are 111 fewer than the 953 new churches or missions reported started the previous year.

Texas Baptists led the denomination in number of church starts, with 169.

While the older state conventions showed the largest number of new congregations, younger state conven-

tions continued to show the best ratio of starts to existing churches.

Although the Dakotas Fellowship started only seven congregations, led the way in ratio of new starts. Dakota Baptists needed an average of 11 existing congregations to start one congregation, compared to a ratio of more than 100-to-1 for older state conventions.

Also, Southern Baptists reported starting 10 congregations in Canada last year, bringing the total number of Southern Baptist congregations there to 106.

Appetizers are those little things you keep eating until you lose your appetite. — (Walden, N.Y. Citizen-Herald)

Crossgates singles make plans for singles emphasis weekend

"Singles, Light Your World" will be the theme of the singles emphasis weekend to be held March 23-25 at Crossgates Church, Brandon.

Singles at Crossgates are inviting all singles to attend the special weekend, which will begin on Friday night with a 7 p.m. concert by Geoffrey Benward and end on Sunday night with the worship service and an after-church fellowship.

The cost of \$10 per person will include an 8 a.m. continental breakfast and a 5:30 p.m. supper on Saturday at the church. Registration deadline is March 18.

Program personnel for the Saturday conferences will include Bob

Buckner, minister of education at Crossgates; Dennis Herrington, singles teacher, Morrison Heights Church, Clinton; David McKay, deacon at Crossgates; Ron Seal, singles teacher at Crossgates; and Karen Rowell, member of the singles council, Crossgates.

Conference topics will be "Growing Through Life's Emotional Challenges," "Lifestyle Evangelism," "Perseverance in Your Walk with God," "Building Lives Through a Winning Attitude," and "Angels: Are They Real?"

For further information, call the church office at 825-2562 or Deborah Hodgins at 825-3137.

A new frontier

(Continued from page 2)

the community can be surveyed to determine needs. In the mission council, those needs can be addressed through a Black Church Extension Director and a team especially chosen to strategize meeting those needs. A Southern Baptist Black seminary student could be the point man in this spiritual army. That student could be an apprentice of an association or a church to begin a ministry in the Black community. The student could learn from Southern Baptists and put his learning to work through Backyard Bible Clubs, Outreach Bible Studies, and maintain preaching and ministry places in the new frontier.

We have the resources! We have the mission structures! We have the mandate from Jesus Christ to go to all nations! The question that now faces us is, do we have the commitment? Do we have the courage? Do we have heart and head to face the new frontier? I believe God is speaking to us through the pain of the Black community, the pain of poverty and hopelessness, the pain of young Black

children having children — babies having babies, the pain of children not knowing Jesus of Nazareth, who is the Savior of children, a Father for the fatherless.

If not your church or association through your leadership?

Who will go?

The Laity can go!

If not in your community?

If not now? When?

Urgently the clock is ticking. Can you hear the pain?

Can you see the pain?

Who will answer?

Richard Brogan is a consultant in the Cooperative Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Mark 10:43: "... but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister." Jesus stated in his teachings, that we should humble ourselves and serve others. Pray that we will try to live up to this great teaching. — Lena Scott Price, Jackson

HMB, SSB announce joint effort

By Linda Lawson and Jim Newton

called Growing Churches starting in October.

Edited by Gary Hardin, the new 64-page magazine will include church-growth ideas, stories about growing churches, interviews with church-growth leaders and inspiring testimonies, Elder said.

Lewis announced plans for a National Church Growth Conference to be held Dec. 3-5 in Phoenix, Ariz. The conference will feature addresses by some of the fastest-growing churches in the convention, offering practical suggestions on how other churches can grow effectively, Lewis said.

Both Lewis and Elder told the editors their agencies had each established church growth councils comprised of staff members to coordinate what units within the two boards are doing regarding church growth.

In addition, a nine-member coordinating team from the two agencies developed a definition of church growth and common characteristics of growing churches. They also developed strategies by which the two agencies will respond to church growth needs within the denomination.

Elder said the two agencies address church growth through joint projects such as church starts, new Sunday Schools, witness training, bus outreach and evangelism, church and associational planning, Scripture distribution, and others.

"In addition, the Home Mission Board and the Sunday School Board are independently involved in helping churches in other dimensions of church growth through our respective convention-assigned programs," said Elder. "In these areas, it is important that each agency base its materials and programs off the same understanding of church growth."

The definition developed by the inter-agency team states:

"Church growth is God at work through his, redeemed people in adding to a church those who are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and helping inactive believers come

to renewed commitment. It is new believers added to existing churches or gathered into new churches and equipped to become responsible church members who minister and witness as personal soul-winners to others. It is strengthening the churches in fellowship, organization, and in world missions commitment."

Elder pointed out the definition calls for growing churches to put top priority on evangelism, leading people to faith in Jesus Christ. It also includes reclaiming inactive church members and leading Christians to become disciples who minister and witness.

Elder also announced plans to release a planning manual for churches, titled "The Southern Baptist Church Growth Plan," in June 1991.

Lewis identified 10 common characteristics of growing churches, pointing out that the list was not all-inclusive but includes general, descriptive traits of a growing church. The 10 characteristics are:

— Priority commitment of believers to winning non-Christians to faith in Christ.

— Pastor, staff, and laity commit to, and plan for, church growth.

— Places an intentional emphasis on a prayer ministry.

— Use of the Sunday School as the primary outreach and assimilation organization of the church.

— Worship that is joyful, celebrative, expectant, with a spirit of revival.

— Centrality of the Bible in preaching and study.

— Equips believers for spiritual growth, personal evangelism, and ministry.

— Provides an effective plan to nurture and assimilate new members.

— A fellowship that expresses acceptance, concern, and love for all.

— A Christian concern that understands and responds to the needs of its community and the world.

Linda Lawson is on the staff of the Sunday School Board and Jim Newton, the Home Mission Board.

AB honors Morgan, picks Powell Southern Baptist Convention

(Continued from page 5)

2:50 Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs Report — James M. Dunn, executive director, Washington

3:00 Public Affairs Committee Report — Albert Lee Smith, chairman, Birmingham, Ala.

3:10 Woman's Missionary Union Report — Dellanna W. O'Brien, executive director, Birmingham

3:20 Report on Southern Baptist Convention Canada Planning Group — Larry L. Lewis

3:30 Benediction — Steve Hensley, pastor, Cross Road Baptist Church, Asheboro, N.C.

Adjournment
Theme Song: "It's Harvest Time"

Convention Officers:

President — C. Jerry Vines, pastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

First Vice President — Junior Hill, evangelist, Hartselle, Ala.

Second Vice President — Ernest B. Myers, executive director-treasurer, Nevada Baptist Convention, Reno

Recording Secretary — Martin B. Bradley, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville

Registration Secretary — Lee Porter, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville

Treasurer — Harold C. Bennett, president, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville

Committee on Order of Business:

C. Jerry Vines — president, Southern Baptist Convention, Jacksonville, Fla.

Dwight Reighard, Chairman — pastor, New Hope Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Ga.

Reuel S. May Jr. — layman, Jackson, Miss.

Chris Tecmire — pastor, First Baptist Church, Blanchard, Okla.

Ray Turner — layman, Bedford, Va.

Joe Aulds — pastor, Temple Baptist Church, Winnsboro, La.

Danny E. Watters — pastor, Beulah Baptist Church, Douglasville, Ga.

John McKay — convention music director, Keller, Texas

DALLAS (BP) — Southern Baptist Annuity Board trustees honored their retiring president, elected his successor and changed the board's abortion-insurance plan during their February meeting.

Trustees, employees and friends donated nearly \$27,000 to establish the Darold and Elizabeth Morgan Fund as a part of the board's Adopt an Annuity program.

The fund, which honors the board's outgoing president and his wife, will perpetually provide an extra \$50 per month for life for three retired ministers or ministers' widows with inadequate retirement incomes.

Morgan established the board's endowment department in 1978 and founded the Adopt an Annuity Fund in 1984. More than 600 annuitants are receiving financial assistance from the program.

Trustees elected Paul W. Powell as president and chief executive officer to succeed Morgan. They unanimously chose Powell as president-elect last October. He was pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas, for 17 years. He will be installed as president March 15 in Dallas.

Powell pledged continuity with the past administration and said the

board will "embrace flexibility to change with changing times."

"There are some things that change does not change," he said. "The member will come first."

Quoting David Livingston, Powell added, "We will go anywhere so as long as it is forward."

The board's insurance committee approved benefit changes in the insurance plans. One change eliminates benefits for an elective termination of pregnancy unless the mother's life is in danger.

The previous policy would have considered benefits for an elective abortion when the pregnancy was caused by rape or incest.

Morgan said the policy change was more symbolic than real, noting, "Our participants simply don't file claims for elective terminations."

Insurance committee Chairman Bob R. Howard of Independence, Mo., reported stability in the group medical plan but noted that the church medical plan continues to suffer losses despite an increase of premiums Jan. 1.

"Church medical claims paid exceeded premiums collected by \$700,000 in the first month. We hope this is a first-month abnormality,"

Howard said.

The relief committee approved 19 grants for supplemental financial assistance and 31 new Adopt an Annuity recipients.

Harold R. Richardson, treasurer and executive vice president, reported another record financial year. Total assets were \$2.7 billion, up \$400 million over 1988.

Retirement and relief benefits paid totaled \$83.8 million, a gain of \$12 million over 1988.

Contributions to retirement funds were up \$15 million in 1989 to \$170.4 million.

Investment income increased \$128 million. The total was \$356 million for 1989. Members in the retirement plan Fixed Fund earned 9 percent instead of the projected 8.75 percent. The Balanced Fund returned 17.6 percent. The Short-term Fund earned 8.6 percent, while the Variable Fund returned 23 percent.

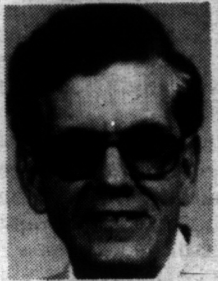
The trustees re-elected B.J. Martin of Pasadena, Texas, as chairman and elected B. Earl Patrick of Waco, Texas, as vice chairman.

John R. Jones was promoted from vice president of investments to senior vice president of the investment division.

Redefining success, in terms of service rendered

By Wayne Campbell
Mark 10:35-45

In one of my favorite comic strips, Winnie the Pooh and Piglet are sitting on a log, munching sandwiches. Piglet says to Pooh, "Wouldn't it be great to be millionaires, Pooh?"



Campbell

"Why?" asks Pooh.
"Then we could afford the finer things in life," Piglet explains.
"What finer things?" Pooh responds. "You're already eating the best butter money can buy."
To Piglet, success was out there somewhere. To Pooh, it was in hand.

What does constitute success? In our lesson text, James and John approach Jesus with a request concerning positions of honor in his kingdom. Despite the indignation we may feel, or that their fellow disciples expressed, at their

LIFE AND WORK

audacity, their desire was quite natural. If Jesus were going to establish a kingdom, who would be more logical than his cousins for the highest positions? It was certainly not uncommon for rulers to appoint relatives to positions of prominence. Matthew indicates that the request was spoken by their mother, which seems reasonable. Parents often have ambitions for their sons and daughters.

The tragedy is that the sons of Zebedee, as well as the other apostles, had grasped little, if any, of their Master's teaching concerning his destiny (10:32-34) or about the nature of greatness in the kingdom of God.

Before we censure James and John too harshly, we ought to check our own attitudes. While we may deplore the mad scramble for power and prestige in the secular workplace, are we free from such in the "work of the Lord"? Jesus

knew that although the twelve had chosen to follow him they still had an inadequate understanding of where he was going. Committing one's life to Jesus Christ does not mean there is no place left for "success" in life, but it certainly should mean that one's concept of success is being conformed to his.

Success is defined by Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary as "a degree or measure of succeeding; favorable or desired outcome; the attainment of wealth, favor, or eminence."

The latter part of that definition meshes with the commonly accepted view cherished by society. But can we as followers of Christ be governed by that view? Is it compatible with our professed loyalty? Is it consistent with the teachings and example of the Lord whose name we bear?

Part of our problem with success is that we want the "best of two worlds." That is, we want to hear the "well done" of our Savior for our devotion to his cause, but want to hear it in the roar of the world's applause. We don't want the

world's destiny nor judgment — just its approval and recognition. While longing for the spiritual and personal rewards of serving Jesus, we have difficulty relinquishing the drive for success as defined by the world.

Jesus called his disciples together and spoke to them about greatness in terms of service. The secular world may also. But the difference is that while the world associates success with service commanded or received, Jesus spoke of success in terms of service rendered.

One family man wryly commented, "At my house, I'm really somebody! My wife says, 'Somebody needs to take out the garbage. Somebody needs to replace that light bulb...'"

The way to be somebody in God's kingdom is not through exercising power over others, but by being "servant of all." The world need not, indeed cannot, tell us when we're successful as followers of Christ. But he can.

Campbell is pastor, Chunky Church, Chunky.

"Jephthah — where did he stand with God?"

By N. Allan Moseley
Judges 10:1-12:15

"We know little or nothing of the inner commitments of Warren Harding in the matter of religion." These are the words used to summarize the spiritual life of the



Moseley

29th president in Presidential Profiles — a study of the religion of our heads of state — by John Bonnell. What a tragedy it is to look back upon the career of a successful person and be unable to determine his/her inner commitment to God. After a review of the record of Jephthah's life, an accurate assessment of his relationship to God is difficult. The facts seem mixed, and hypotheses about this judge's spiritual life vary widely.

Jephthah was the son of Gilead by a harlot, which made him an outcast according to Old Testament law (Deut. 23:2). Certainly it was through no fault of his own that he was born in such circumstances, but either because of the law or because of embarrassment, when Gilead's legitimate sons grew up, they drove Jephthah out (Judges 11:1-2). Such rejection in

BIBLE BOOK

Israel meant that he would have been not only an outcast from his own family, but an exile from his nation as well. As a result of being ostracized, Jephthah became a renegade, or bandit, in the land of Tob. While he was there, "worthless fellows" gathered to him (11:3). Perhaps it is a testimony to Jephthah's character that he attracted such ne'er-do-wells.

In the next stage of Jephthah's life he is seen as a barterer. Apparently he had displayed military acumen while in exile, because the elders of Gilead chose him as the one to lead in battle against the Ammonites. Though God had been directly involved in the choice of other judges, he is neither mentioned nor consulted in the selection of Jephthah. When offered the job, Jephthah bartered over the terms. He wanted a guarantee that he would be the head over the Gileadites, ensuring that he would not be thrust out as an exile again (11:9).

There must have been sadistic pleasure in being in the position to rule over the very people who had considered him an outcast. The elders agreed to Jephthah's stipulation, and im-

mediately Jephthah began to play the role of diplomat and to barter with the Ammonites. Before he attacked, he wanted to make sure of the nature of dispute between Israel and Ammon. The Ammonites claimed that Israel had taken their land. Jephthah, evidently an astute student of Israel's history, set the record straight (11:14-27). After he determined that Ammon was in the wrong, he was ready to attack.

Before battle, Jephthah made a vow to the Lord. The intention of the vow is uncertain. Was Jephthah offering to the Lord a genuine sacrifice out of devotion and gratitude? Whatever the condition of Jephthah's heart, the vow was a foolish one (11:30-31). Evidently he was committing himself to offer a human sacrifice to the Lord. Such an act was in conflict with God's law, but it was in concert with the pagan practices of the Canaanites. Perhaps he was exhibiting zeal without knowledge (Rom. 10:2); he wanted to give the Lord something great, but had not bothered to determine if his intentions might be out of the revealed will of God.

After the Lord gave him victory (11:32-33), Jephthah's daughter was the first to walk out of his tent, designating her as the one to be sacrificed. Jephthah proves to be true to his

vow, which is an admirable trait. However, it cannot be right to fulfill a vow that was out of the will of God in the first place. Rather than perpetuate the sin, the error should be admitted instead of carried out. Tragically, however, Jephthah, believing that he was right, killed his only child.

There are several other facts about the faith of Jephthah that make it difficult to draw conclusions about his relationship to God. Eight times he mentions the name of the Lord (11:9, 20, 23, 24, 27, 30, 31, 35), and the Spirit of the Lord is said to have come upon him (11:29). Yet, he also mentions the name of Chemosh (11:24) as if he acknowledges the existence and activity of that pagan deity. His willingness to practice human sacrifice also demonstrates paganism's influence on him.

Jephthah was a child of his times. His conflicting ideologies and practices are illustrations of the syncretism and spiritual vacillation in all of Israel. God help us to live in such a way that those who write our biographies will not have to wonder about our "inner commitments in the matter of religion." Jesus said, "Let your light shine!" (Matt. 5:16).

Allan Moseley is pastor, First Church, Durham, N.C. (formerly pastor, Bayou View, Gulfport).

Disciples to be guided by the Spirit of truth

By Tommy Vinson
John 16:12-24

Jesus Christ has already established the fact that he is "the way" to God (14:6). Now he is preparing to leave his disciples behind. The obvious question arises, "With Christ gone, how can they find the way?" The answer is that he is going to leave a divine guide, no one less than the Spirit of God himself. When he comes, he will guide the disciples "into all truth" (vs. 12).



Vinson

I. The Spirit's Guiding.
First, "he guides in harmony with God's timing" (vs. 12). Jesus had many things yet to teach them, but he also knew that their ability to perceive was limited. They perhaps were preoccupied with the prediction of their own desertion, or the prophecy of a traitor in their midst. In their present emotional spiritual state they could not "bear" any more. Our Lord recognized this, and being the great

teacher he was, he gave them the right amount of truth at the right time. He knew that later, when the Spirit came, he would clarify the things they could not presently understand.

The biography of Corrie Ten Boom has her asking Papa Ten Boom about the facts of life. Papa replies by requesting that Corrie pick up a heavy suitcase. "Papa, I can't, it's too heavy," Corrie replies.

"You're right Corrie, but some day you can carry it. The same is true with your question. You're not ready for the answer yet, but some day you will be."

Second, the Spirit guides in harmony with God's word. The Spirit will never lead you to do anything which violates God's revealed will in his word. We can never justify our disobedience by saying "the spirit led me." A practical example of this would be the Christian young man or woman who says, "but the Holy Spirit led me

to marry them even though they are unbelievers" (cf. II Cor. 6:14).

II. The Spirit glorifying (vss. 14, 15)
The Spirit's ministry will be centered in the person of Jesus Christ — "He shall glorify me" (vs. 14). John Chrysostom, one of the greatest preachers in Christian history, held 6,000 people spellbound in the great church of Constantinople. Things looked good and large in John's ministry, but he became discouraged. A friend went to him and said, "John, you ought not be discouraged. You are the most popular preacher in this city. Six thousand people hang upon your words. Your praises are upon the lips of the people on the street. You are honored and praised everywhere."

Chrysostom's great eyes filled with tears. He said, "Is that the comfort you bring me? Is that the consolation you offer? I do not want the people to praise John. I want the people to praise Jesus." Chrysostom's ministry was marked by the Spirit of God because he made much of Jesus Christ.

III. The saint's grappling (vss. 16-22)
The disciples were struggling to understand

what Jesus meant by "a little while you shall not see me; and again, a little while and you shall see me." Some teach that these words refer either to the Spirit's coming on Pentecost after our Lord's death, or to our Lord's second coming at the end of the age. It seems more consistent with the context to believe that our Lord referred here to his death and to his subsequent post-resurrection experiences. The mistake they made was in trying to figure it out themselves rather than immediately asking Jesus (vs. 17).

IV. The Spirit's giving (vss. 23-24)
There is coming a day when they will no longer need to ask Jesus any questions (vs. 23). There are two reasons for this: they will have a completed revelation, the Word of God; and they will have an inward teacher, the Spirit of God. With God's spirit in our heart and his Word in our hand, we are equipped to know the will of the Father so that we can pray "in Jesus' name" (vs. 24). The end result of such asking and receiving will be that our "joy will be full."

Tommy Vinson is pastor, Crossgates Church, Brandon.

Churches adopt expanded annuity

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Church Annuity Plan since those reported in the Feb. 8 issue of the Baptist Record: Atlanta: Yockanookany; Clarke: Pleasant Grove; Gulfcoast: Gulfport Heights; Hinds-Madison: Farriss Street, First Church Madison, and Terry Road; Jeff Davis: Bassfield; Lamar: Okahola; Lee: Bethany; Lincoln: Clear Branch; Lowndes: Mount Vernon; Pearl River: Goodyear; Washington: Parkview; and Webster: Montevista.

Off the Record

A student who changes the course of history is probably taking an exam. — Franklin P. Jones in Quote Magazine

A committee is a group of people who talk for hours to produce a result called minutes. — (A.D.)

Wife, to Eskimo hubby: "Sitting on top of the world, and still you complain." — (True Experience)

When I hear somebody sigh, "Life is hard," I am always tempted to ask, "Compared to what?" — Houghton Mifflin

Bush family split over abortion

The family of President George Bush is split along gender lines on the issue of abortion, with the president opposed to it and his wife leaning toward the pro-choice position. — NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE

capsules

Catholic bishop says Cuomo's abortion stand may send him 'straight to hell'

ALBANY, N.Y. (EP) — From the jail cell where he served a 15-day sentence for participating in an Operation Rescue demonstration at an abortion clinic, New York Auxiliary Bishop Austin Vaughan fired a broadside at Mario Cuomo, warning the Catholic governor of New York that his pro-abortion position may send him "straight to hell."

Speaking from jail to a reporter for the New York Post, Vaughan said Cuomo "is in danger of going to hell if he dies tonight." Vaughan added, "I think that for a believing, educated Catholic to take the position he's taking, he takes a very serious risk of going straight to hell."

Vaughan compared Cuomo's "personal opposition" to abortion to a Nazi soldier who "may have objected to the

holocaust but nevertheless supported the German government's right to murder six million innocent Jews."

The American Jewish Committee condemned Vaughan's remarks, calling them "disrespectful" and "polarizing." The AJC asserted, "To compare the Governor to a Nazi soldier who would be punished at Nuremberg and to invoke the holocaust is not only disrespectful to the chief elected official of our state, but cheapens the meaning of the holocaust and sharply polarizes an issue of public policy on which there is room for various positions."

The AJC, which is officially pro-abortion, commended Cuomo for "separating personal religious beliefs from positions on matters of policy."

Smoking triples female heart troubles

A new study has found that cigarette smoking by women triples their chances of having a heart attack. More than 10 previous studies have shown a similar pattern in men. The conclusion is that for both men and women cigarette smoking increases threefold the possibility of having a heart attack. — THE WASHINGTON POST

Southwestern will host lab, youth ministers

FORT WORTH, Texas — Diamonds and youth ministry will shine together this April at Southwestern Seminary's 22nd annual Youth Ministry Lab.

"Youth Ministry A Cut Above," is the theme of this year's event, coinciding with the 75th anniversary of the school of religious education at Southwestern.

The lab is April 6-8 on the seminary campus. The theme for the event is based on the Old Testament verse Daniel 12:3 — "those who lead men to righteousness will shine like stars."

The event is run by a committee of students who have an interest in youth ministry.

Retired editor Owen dies in Nashville

NASHVILLE (BP) — Richard N. Owen, former longtime editor of the Baptist and Reflector, newsjournal of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, died Feb. 26 in Nashville.

Owen was editor of the Tennessee paper from 1950 to 1968, when he retired. He was 91.

Previously, he was pastor of churches in Milan, Elizabethton, Paris and Clarksville, Tenn.

He was a native of Covington, Tenn., and was a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

He is survived by a son, Richard N. Owen Jr. of Nashville, and a sister, Elizabeth O. Sims of Richland, Ga.

Agency defers decision on Southeastern

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada has delayed until June its decision on the accreditation of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Association of Theological Schools and another accrediting agency, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, have been studying the Wake Forest, N.C., seminary's accreditation for about two years.

Southeastern has been troubled by a dispute between faculty and administration and trustees since October 1987, when the trustees' new "conservative" majority changed the way the school chooses faculty members. Subsequently, at least 18 faculty and administrators — including the president and faculty dean — have resigned or retired.

Both accrediting agencies launched investigations of Southeastern almost two years ago. Both agencies issued reports critical of the seminary, raising issues of institutional effectiveness/image, faculty selection, perceptions of academic freedom and seminary governance.

Trustees and faculty drafted separate responses to those reports, as did President Lewis A. Drummond, who worked with a committee representing the school's constituencies.

Jack Massey dies

NASHVILLE (BP) — Baptist philanthropist Jack C. Massey of Nashville died Feb. 15 in Palm Beach, Fla., at age 85.

Massey, who developed Kentucky Fried Chicken and Hospital Corporation of America, was a major benefactor of Belmont College, a Tennessee Baptist Convention-related institution in Nashville. Two main buildings — Massey Auditorium and Jack C. Massey Business Center, still under construction — bear his name.

He also helped lay the groundwork for the Southern Baptist Foundation, a Southern Baptist Convention agency with offices in Nashville, and served 12 years on the board of Baptist Hospital of Nashville.

Lebanon's civil war worsens; Baptists help feed victims

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — As Lebanon's 15-year civil war takes another turn for the worse, Southern Baptists have allocated \$45,000 in hunger-relief funds for victims of the latest artillery battles among dueling Catholic factions.

The fighting killed more than 650 Lebanese and left thousands homeless during the first three weeks of February. More than 125,000 have been killed in the war, which began in 1975.

Badaro Street Baptist Church in East Beirut received extensive damage when an artillery shell struck the building and another shell exploded nearby, said Jean Boucheble, associate pastor of Bikfaya Baptist Church and director of the Lebanon office of the Christian relief organization World Vision.

Homes of several members of Badaro Street Church and cars of two Baptist pastors also were damaged, Boucheble said.

"I haven't seen so much destruction in all the years of the war in Lebanon," Boucheble said after surveying Ain al-Rummaneh, a suburb of East Beirut. He said the fighting completely destroyed at least 2,000 homes, many in buildings several stories high.

In one relief project, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board will provide funds to Lebanese Baptists who will work with World Vision to provide food to about 500 families in the town of Dbeiyeh north of East Beirut. About 300 homes there were destroyed and 200 damaged to the point of being temporarily uninhabitable.

In another project, the 12 Baptist churches in Lebanon will distribute food to victims of the strife in their areas.

"We're working to get some emergency help into Lebanon as soon as we possibly can," said Pete Dunn, one of 24 Southern Baptist missionaries who worked in Lebanon until 1986, when the U.S. State Department suspended passport privileges for Americans there. The restriction remains in force, and Dunn and a number of the other missionaries have relocated in Cyprus.

"We need (to send) medicines, food, water," Dunn said. "We need missionaries in Lebanon where they can be of help."

The February flare-up is the worst among Catholic factions since Lebanon's civil war began. Previous-

ly, so-called Christian and Muslim factions had warred and other nations such as Syria and Israel as well as the United States had heightened the complexity of the strife.

Catholics and other Christians once lived throughout Lebanon but now are confined to less than 20 percent of the country, essentially in East Beirut and the surrounding areas.

The vast majority of Lebanon's 3 million people, as usual, are on the sidelines, powerless to stop the strife, according to observers. The Lebanese Army led by Gen. Michel Aoun and the Lebanese Forces militia commanded by Samir Geagea are the combatants. Many East Beirut residents have fled into predominantly Muslim West Beirut. Those remaining in the battle zones, meanwhile, regularly retreat to bomb shelters.

The strife stems from Aoun's refusal to accept a government that emerged from a conference of Christian and Muslim Lebanese leaders last fall. The government is internationally recognized and supported by Syria, which has deployed troops in Lebanon. However, Aoun insists that Syria withdraw.

Toalston writes for FMB.

De Klerk — acting on religious beliefs?

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (EP) — Recently elected South African President Frederick W. De Klerk has been accused by right-wing opponents of acting in an un-Christian manner by calling for a restructuring of the government to allow blacks a political voice, and by releasing black leader Nelson Mandela. But others say that these and other political moves may be acts spurred by his Christian convictions.

Mandela, head of the recently-legalized African National Congress, was released Feb. 11 after 28 years of imprisonment.

Conservatives protested Mandela's release because of the ANC's reputation for violence against blacks and

whites who are believed to support apartheid. The ANC has become notorious for murdering opponents with a "necklace," an automobile tire filled with gasoline that is placed over the head of their victims and ignited.

De Klerk told "Nightline" anchor Ted Koppel in a live broadcast outside his home Feb. 13 that he believes the ANC used violence because the government refused to negotiate with ANC leaders. Now that he has legitimized the movement and released its leader, De Klerk says he believes the ANC will no longer resort to violent tactics.

"Who would think we live in a Christian country when F. W. De Klerk chose a Sunday to free Mandela?"

said Andries Treurnicht, leader of the Conservative Party which supports apartheid. "We will give President De Klerk a friendly but firm message: 'Your days are numbered,'" he told about 3,000 supporters Feb. 12 at a rally near Cape Town.

But others believe that De Klerk is acting upon religious convictions when he calls for a "new South Africa." De Klerk is a member of the Doppe Church, a Protestant denomination which has its roots in the Dutch Reformed Church.

In a recent interview, Yolan Heinz, head of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa, said that De Klerk has had a "conversion," not from unbelief to faith, but that he has become convinced that there is a need for radical change in South Africa.

Devotional

Kind one to another

By Don Dobson

Be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32 N.I.V.). The Apostle Paul appears to have picked up on Christ's "one another" motif. In Ephesians, he tells us to be kind to each other. What a radical idea! Are we really to be kind to people; and if we are, just what does this word mean?

The New Testament concept of "kind" is defined as being good, pleasant, and gracious. The world is literally starving to death for good, pleasant, and gracious people. Certainly those of us who are Christians should be kind to a starving world. Can we not be good to those who are bad? Can we not be pleasant to those who are unpleasant? Can we not be gracious to those who are less than appreciative? Surely we can. Biblically, we must.

We must, because we serve a kind God. He is gracious. He is good. He is pleasant. As Thomas a Kempis said, "We are an imitation of Christ."

Kindness is not being chivalrous, or gallant, or even being a part of an organization. It is an attitude of the heart, a heart that has been touched by Christ.

Luke, one of my small friends at our church, told me one morning that he "wasn't gonna hit Will no more." How's that for the gospel according to Luke? In the spirit of Paul's letter to the Ephesians, let's stop hitting one another! Let us unball our fists and open them into hands of kindness.

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